THE TIMES 50P

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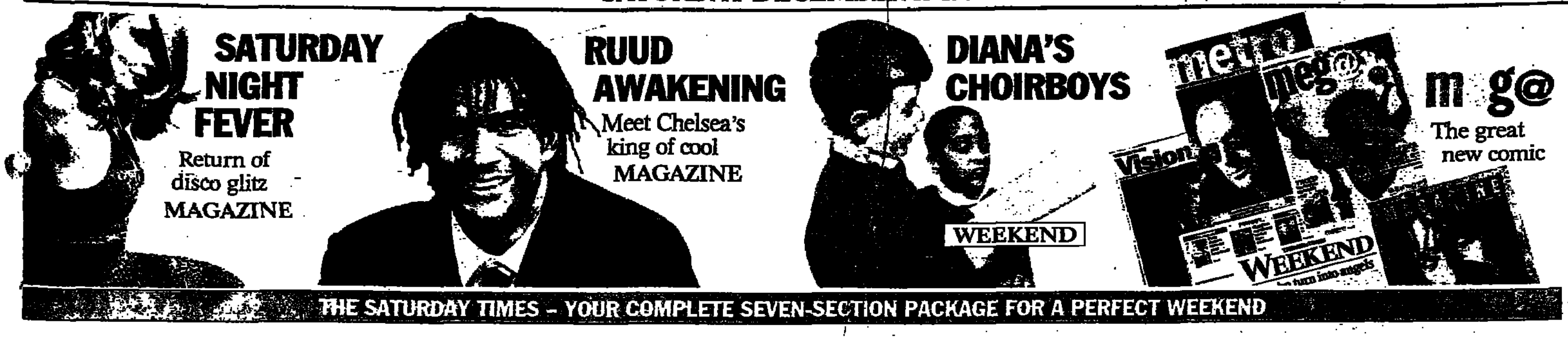

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER
Return of disco glitz
MAGAZINE

RUUD AWAKENING
Meet Chelsea's king of cool
MAGAZINE

DIANA'S CHOIRBOYS
WEEKEND

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Lilley claim over offshore trust

Treasury was 'kept in dark' by Robinson

By Nicholas Wood

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the minister under pressure over his financial affairs, was last night accused of being "economical with the truth" when seeking advice from senior civil servants.

The charge was made by Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, after Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, disclosed that he had not conducted detailed inquiries into the Paymaster General's offshore trust — usually a device for avoiding tax — and had concluded that it operated as a blind trust, at arms length from the minister.

Sir Terence said in a letter to Mr Lilley that the Orion trust "offered similar protection to that provided by a blind trust" and "there was no reason to consider it further".

But Mr Lilley claimed that Mr Robinson had kept Sir Terence in the dark about the nature of the Guernsey-based trust and that his conduct, while not illegal, conflicted with the code of conduct for ministers.

The complex share dealings carried out by Orion in the run-up to the election — involving the purchase of some £10 million of shares in one of Mr Robinson's former companies — showed that Sir Terence had been wrong to conclude that the trust operated blind and that Mr Robinson had no influence over its activities. "Mr Robinson failed to tell the Permanent Secretary that his family trust did not behave like a blind trust, but engaged in transactions with his companies' shares at times convenient to him both economically and politically," Mr Lilley said.

AND THAT IS GEOFFREY ROBINSON'S BANK ACCOUNT
PRE-FLIGHT BRIEFING
ROBERT THOMPSON

"It is precisely such transactions that a blind trust is supposed not to allow so that there can never be a suspicion that a minister is engaged in rearranging his assets."

Mr Lilley added that he doubted Sir Terence had understood the nature of an offshore trust. "Probably the Permanent Secretary does not have a clue what an offshore trust in Guernsey is like. He just took the Paymaster General's word for it."

He has now written again to Sir Terence urging him to tell Mr Robinson that his Orion trust was not a blind trust. He added that when Sir Terence advised Mr Robinson, he had apparently been unaware of Orion's purchase last year of £10 million of shares in Mr Robinson's company Stenbell, or that Orion owns a big stake in Mr Robinson's former company Transtec.

"I am not saying it is illegal. The significance is that this trust does not behave like a blind trust. It has not behaved like a blind trust in the past and cannot be assumed to be behaving like a blind trust in the future. It is a trust which has an active ongoing relationship with Geoffrey Robinson. It is not compatible with the ministerial code of conduct."

Mr Robinson insisted again, however, that he had acted properly and in line with rules for ministers. He told *The Times*: "Sir Terence Burns makes it quite clear that I acted in line with the ministerial code and in accordance with his advice."

Treasury officials also defended their minister, saying that Mr Lilley had misinterpreted Sir Terence's letter, ignoring the words "similar protection". "That's clear that the (Orion) trust offered similar protection to the blind trust," one aide said.

Taxing times, pages 18, 19
High life, page 20

STUART HARRISON

Geoffrey Robinson arriving in Coventry. On the return journey, he subjected himself to six hours of questions, but answers came there none

Hot mints and a cool head in the minister's Jag

By James Landale
POLITICAL REPORTER

GEOFFREY ROBINSON lent round in the cream leather-bound front seat of his burgundy four-litre Jaguar Sovereign and asked: "Would you like a mint?"

The embattled Paymaster General yesterday exposed *The Times* to the full force of his undoubted charm when he took time from discussions with his lawyers and visited his Coventry North-West constituency.

As I wondered about the propriety of accepting extra strong mints from a Minister of the Crown, Mr Robinson declared he was in fine fettle. "If you start worrying about things like this and you don't get on with the job, you are lost. You have no choice." It was "amusing that at this moment some 50 journalists are out there crawling all over my affairs."

Once lured into the car, I was trapped for six hours.

For a minister often accused of avoiding the press, Mr Robinson was relaxed and charming. His financial affairs were, however, strictly off limits. He also knew that the best way to deal with the press is to be nice.

But what about his trusts? What is his involvement with Orion and Transtec? Answers were not forthcoming and even the smallest response was entirely off the record and not for use.

Like many experienced politicians Mr Robinson uses the canny technique of side-stepping questions by asking questions himself. He wanted to know everything about me, even

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Football penalty

The Football Association gave suspended sentences for misconduct to goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, who have admitted forecasting match results. The pair were handed a six-month ban and £10.000 fine suspended for two years. Segers now plays for Wolverhampton Wanderers. Grobbelaar is hoping to resume his playing career..... Page 33

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Warning to Heathrow passengers

TRAVELLERS using Heathrow could face delays today as airlines struggle to get their services back to normal after the fire that paralysed the world's busiest international airport yesterday.

More than 300 flights were cancelled, thousands of passengers stranded and there were miles of traffic jams. Terminal One, where the fire broke out, was closed for ten hours: Terminals Two and Three were also shut for several hours.

The blaze is thought to have started in an extractor duct above a fast food restaurant and last night safety and fire experts were investigating how the blaze spread so swiftly throughout the terminal.

Passengers were warned to check with their airlines if they intend to fly to Europe or British cities today.

Safety inquiry, page 5

Blair claims victory in battle over euro 'club'

From Philip Webster and Charles Bremner in Luxembourg

BRITAIN and France remained locked in a ferocious battle over the single currency last night with both sides claiming victory after a deal on membership of the "club" managing the euro.

On a day of heated exchanges inside and outside the European Council summit in Luxembourg an agreement was finally struck after 10 hours of wrangling. British officials insisted the deal had given Tony Blair all that he had been arguing for. But the French and several other countries contested that claim after a confrontation in which the Prime Minister had dug in his heels in the style of Margaret Thatcher and John Major. He won, as expected, his demand that the Council of Finance Ministers (Ecofin) should remain the only decision-making body on economic and financial affairs. But he appeared to have accepted that the "club" could discuss, without Britain in attendance, a wider range of issues than suggested by officials earlier in the week.

There was also a resigned acceptance by British ministers that there would be nothing to stop single currency countries meeting on their own before Ecofin meetings and agreeing what line to take.

The strains of Mr Blair's first big European battle became clearly apparent when a conversation between himself and Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, was accidentally recorded and transmitted by Danish television. In it a clearly exasperated Mr Blair was trying to tell Mr Poos that he was not asking for, but "demanding", the right to attend most Euro-X meetings. The conversation ended with Mr Blair turning to one of his officials, shaking his head and raising his arms in frustration.

The French also described Mr Blair as being agitated and making repeated interruptions around the conference table. The ill-tempered wrangle delayed the summit's main business of launching the eastward move of the EU to the Soviet bloc and it was seen by some as souring the atmosphere between Britain and her partners on the eve of the British presidency, which starts on January 1.

The spokesman for President Chirac of France described Mr Blair as "arguing passionately and repeatedly interrupting". Helmut

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 23

THE SATURDAY TIMES
Bigger and Better

The best for business and best for personal finance

BUSINESS
Today the best City pages talk to Lord Moyne, at the heart of the Guinness scandal
Starting Page 26
with share prices

[illegible]

The award-winning team on how to make the best of isas and the continuing rise in house prices next year
in section 2
with unit trust prices

meg@
The great new comic

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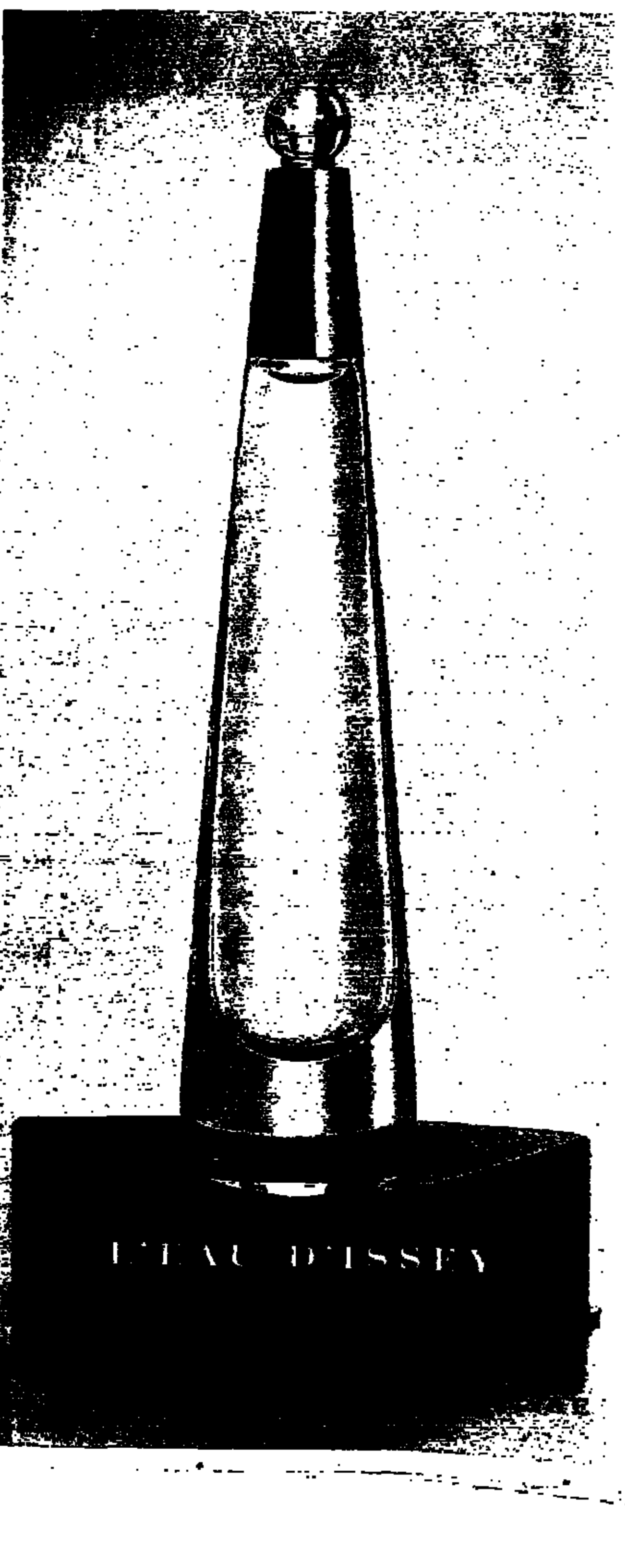

Internet prepares for a virtual merry Christmas

By Lin Jenkins

THE latest fad this Christmas is sending virtual cards to colleagues, business associates, friends and family as the number of people with electronic mail addresses increases by tens of thousands each day.

Traditional seasonal tidings are taking the most modern route via e-mail into offices and homes. Many virtual cards have additional features of festive jingles and are animated allowing snow to fall. Santa's sleigh to be pulled through the sky and reindeer to do comic turns in the manner of the more frivolous specimens in the shops.

Electronic season's greetings

Those who wish to ingratiate themselves further can also send virtual Christmas largesse in the form of e-mailed bottles of sherry, whisky or champagne or even virtual bouquets of flowers.

If that does not adequately reflect the required level of seasonal goodwill then the sender can opt for virtual kisses and cuddles.

The cards are produced cheaply and scanned on to Web sites so that users can choose a card and writes in his own message. The card is sent free of charge.

Owners of Web sites offer the service to attract more "hits" to their page and therefore increase the fees they can charge for advertising on their site.

Nigel Powell, a writer on the Internet, said: "Anybody can do it with a scanner costing a couple of hundred quid to put the graphics into the system, a laptop computer and a telephone line. Some people put them on for fun, others to get more hits on their site. The worldwide Web is about making money from advertising. While you are choosing a card you will also see the logo of the advertiser.

Mark Hasting, policy adviser at the Institute of Managment, said: "E-mail Christmas cards are fast and serve the objective of showing that you know how to work that computer that sits on your desk. On the other hand, it could be seen as a bit sad to spend your time doing Christmas cards. I prefer the cardboard ones, they are somehow more artistic than the press of a button."

The United Nations Children's Fund yesterday launched the first charity Internet Christmas card. It is available from their Website and they ask users to make a donation.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

'I hardly shout at people any more'

Chris Evans, media mogul
Page 9

'She is plastic. But she is happy and that is all that counts'

James Bone's New York Diary
Page 12

'We had to play along with the criminals'

Lord Moyne *Interviewed*
Page 30

Labour threatens to make radio waves

By Nicholas Watt
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has declared war on Radio 4's *Today* programme and issued a blunt warning that government ministers will be pulled off the air if John Humphrys, the presenter, persists in *interrupting them.*

In a curt letter to *Today*'s editor, Labour's chief spin-doctor complained that the "John Humphrys problem" was spiralling out of control after he gave Harriet Harman a rough ride over her plans to cut benefits to single parents.

Labour was furious when Mr *Humphrys* accused the *Social* Security Secretary of "Alice In Wonderland Stuff" on Wednesday morning, hours before left-wing MPs revolted against the Government's plans to reduce benefits by up to £11 a week.

David Hill, Labour's chief media spokesperson, told Jon Barton, *Today's* editor: "We have had a council *of war and are now seriously* considering whether, as a party, we will suspend co-operation when you make bids through us for Government ministers."

Mr Hill, who plays a key role in masterminding the party's slick media operation, condemned the interview as a "ridiculous exchange". *In his letter, which was leaked to the* Liberal Democrats, he said: "John Humphrys interrupted so much that she [Ms Harman] was never permitted to develop a single answer. Frankly none of this can go on. We need to talk as this is now serious."

Labour's missive so infuriated senior staff on *Today* that Mr Barton *wrote a strong* letter to Mr Hill defending the programme. He said: "I thought the encounter demonstrated John's characteristic strengths. John was well briefed and had a clear sense of direction in the interview."

Mr Barton insisted that Ms Harman was given a chance to respond to the questions and he pointed out she had raised no objections after the interview. He added: "We would obviously be very sorry if you decided to 'suspend co-operation' between Labour and the *Today* programme. The losers would be the listeners who would lose valuable opportunities to hear key government policies subjected to intelligent and vigorous scrutiny."

Mr Humphrys, who will be up early this morning to present *Today* despite a heavy cold, gave a diplomatic response to Labour's letter. He said: "It was an absolutely routine interview. I was just doing my job."

His cautious remarks concealed deep anger among senior staff at the hostile tone of Mr Hill's letter. One insider described the letter as "grotesque" for making such a personalised attack on Mr Humphrys.

Today, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary, has regular confrontations with the Government of the day. Brian Redhead, the late presenter, once asked Lord Lawson of Blaby to observe a minute's silence for suggesting that he was a Labour supporter.

The Liberal Democrats, who released the letter, condemned Labour last night *for attempting* to bully a respected programme. Norman Baker, the MP for Lewes, said: "It is outrageous for an elected Government to refuse to discuss its policies."

Humphrys: just doing a routine interview

Prince's Trust gives £3m for millennium projects

By Mark Henderson

THE Prince's Trust is to celebrate the millennium with a £3 million award scheme to help disadvantaged young people start community projects, the Prince of Wales announced yesterday.

The Trust's M-Power millennium awards, which have received £2.7 million in funding from the Millennium Commission, will help at least 250 projects with grants of up to £10,000 over the next three years. Thousands of youngsters, many from underprivileged backgrounds, are expected to get involved.

The awards will be given to youth groups to run schemes *that build community spirit* and shared culture, provide a valuable service or "empower" the disadvantaged. "It will provide over 2,500 disadvan*taged young people with all* sorts of opportunities to make lasting contributions to local communities," Prince Charles said at the launch of the scheme at the Limelight nightclub in central London. It was introduced by Midnight Blue, a band and music-teaching group funded by the Trust.

Among projects that have won funding under similar Trust award schemes are an African drum band, a telephone helpline for the young and a non-sectarian campaign to persuade Northern Ireland's youth to vote.

STEFAN ROUSSEAU

Mrs Lawrence with some of the winners at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts yesterday

Widow hails winning citizens

THE Home Office is to seek commercial sponsors for the good citizen awards set up in memory of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster murdered outside his London school (Richard Ford writes).

Sponsors would be expected to work in partnership with the Home Office in supporting the annual awards, which were made for the first time yesterday. Almost £50,000 of government money was spent on setting up the awards, which were won by five groups of young people for projects ranging from helping the Bangladeshi community in Luton to a radio station in Wandsworth, south London.

Mrs Lawrence, the headteacher's widow, praised the commitment of the young people. It was, she said, an excellent tribute to her husband.

Speaking at the awards ceremony at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly, she said *she had been "haunted by the* pain" of the many thousands of people who had written to her since her husband died expressing their concern about the breakdown of civilised society.

Mrs Lawrence said that all those who had won awards had worked courageously, often against a backdrop of aggression and racism to create a more fruitful and equal society for others. The five winning projects, *which each received £500 to* help their work, were the Crescent Summer School project in Luton, Fundamental FM in Wandsworth, Rawthorpe Community Help panel in Huddersfield, Tredegar Comprehensive school in south Wales and Yogi's Sobar in Grangemouth, Scotland.

Leading article, page 23

Sceptics want cap on currency poll spending

By Nicholas Wood

LEADING Eurosceptics are pressing for strict curbs on the amounts of money that can be spent by the opposing sides *in* any future referendum on a European single currency.

They fear that unless Lord Neill, the public standards watchdog, regulates the contest, the "No" campaign will be heavily outspent by the big battalions of Government, unions and captains of industry. They are also concerned that the country could be "brainwashed" into backing the euro by lavish and unchecked propaganda by its well-heeled supporters.

In an attempt to create a level playing field, the sceptics are demanding equal sums of public money to be set aside to fund the rival campaigns. They are also calling for a cap on the amounts of campaign cash that can be raised from *business and private sources*, full disclosure of all donations and a ban on money from abroad — including the European Commission.

The proposals *are set out in* a letter from Lord McAlpine of West Green, leader of the Referendum Movement, to Lord Neill, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, which is reviewing party political funding. The Referendum Movement, an umbrella body for the "No" campaign, arose from the demise of the Referendum Party after the election. It is understood that Lord McAlpine, a former Conservative Party treasurer, has urged *Lord Neill to act now* — five years from the most likely date for a referendum — because of mounting evidence that a shadow "Yes" campaign is already underway. *He is fear*ful that the current 55-60 per cent level of public opposition to the euro will be steadily eroded over the next few years. *His letter is clearly aimed* at sparking public debate about the complex issues involved.

The 1975 referendum on continued British membership of the Common Market included state funding for a single mailshot to the electorate from both camps, but imposed no limits on campaign spending.

In his letter, Lord McAlpine points to the formation by the Chancellor of a standing com*mittee to prepare Britain* for entry into a single currency. Its members include the Bank of England, trade unions, the Association of British Chambers of *Commerce and the* CBI. He also highlights the way big firms have been listed as supporters of groups supporting the single currency.

He calls on Lord Neill to set up a committee of representatives of both camps to oversee the implementation of new rules for a referendum campaign. He has sent copies of his letter to Tony Blair and William Hague.

Blair claims euro 'club' victory

Continued from page 1

Kohl, the German Chancellor, was reported by other delegations as claiming not to understand what Mr Blair was arguing about. After the morning session *ended in deadlock the Luxembourg* presidency spent the afternoon trying to find a compromise that somehow met Mr Blair's desire to be in the so-called Euro-X committee as a matter of course and *satisfied French insistence that the single* currency countries should decide when those outside EMU should attend.

Mr Blair had, however, been ready to make some concessions to his colleagues. *The French said Mr Blair had* made an important concession in accepting that "ins" could exclusively discuss matters of mutual interest. The "ins" could discuss, meet and define their own agenda. "This *was a major shift in the British attitude,"* M Chirac's spokesman said.

Under the deal the single currency countries will notify the "out" countries of what they intend to discuss in Euro-X meetings. The "outs" will have the right to be invited when matters of common interest are being discussed.

Leading article, page 23

Robinson at home

Continued from page 1

which football team I supported and where I bought my shoes.

According to his assistant of 14 years, Dr Liz Hasthorpe, Mr Robinson is tough enough to get through his current difficulties. "He's pretty thick skinned. Nothing much phases him. He's a pretty tough character."

But she admitted that the pressure occasionally had got to him. Last week she was speaking to him on the phone when an official told him he had to go and vote in the Commons on a measure concerning voluntary euthanasia. He said: "I think I feel like a voluntary candidate at the moment."

Mr Robinson had begun his day at a private reception to celebrate the opening of a new *road from the M6 to the city* centre. After a swift cup of tea and lunchtime sandwich, Mr Robinson headed to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. *There he handed out prizes*, including House of Commons pens, to schoolchildren who had won a Christmas card painting competition. Several years ago Mr Robinson set up the competition to decide what should decorate the cards he sent to hundreds of constituents, officials and friends at the festive time.

Mr Robinson then headed off into the rolling countryside to deal with three constituency *matters.*

But the most pressing issue concerning constituents was not offshore trusts or battles with the local council. They simply wanted to know why Coventry City football club had dropped their long-standing goalkeeper for today's game. Having been forced to give up his directorship, Mr Robinson could not comment.

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هكذا من الأصل

Music patron denies charges over dead girl

Family shocked as Swiss hold president of Philharmonia, reports **Emma Wilkins**

FRIENDS and family of Vincent Meyer, president of the Philharmonia Orchestra, were united in their disbelief yesterday after he was formally accused in Switzerland of manslaughter, rape and sexual acts against a minor.

Mr Meyer, a millionaire philanthropist, whose wife Elizabeth is the niece of the Earl of Moray, has been held in prison in Geneva since December 2. The alleged offences were said to have been committed over three years across Europe, including Switzerland, between 1989 and 1992.

The girl, who was aged between 12 and 15 at the time of the alleged incidents, committed suicide last August at the age of 20. It is understood that she left a suicide note in which she named a man as having abused her.

Claude-François Wenger, the investigating magistrate handling the case, said that a hearing on December 23 would decide whether to prolong Mr Meyer's detention.

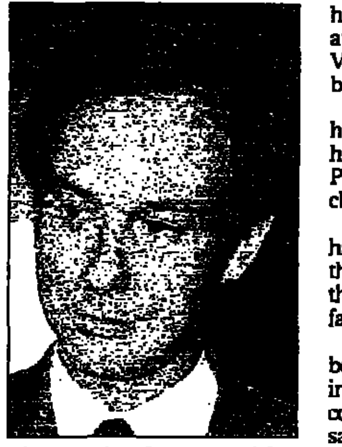
Jacques Volery, a spokesman for the Geneva police, said investigations were underway in at least five other European countries.

It is understood that the allegations leading to his detention were first made two months ago by the girl's family. Mr Meyer denies all the accusations against him.

Mr Meyer, 46, whose fortune is derived from the banking interests of his grandfather, was born in France but took Swiss nationality four years ago. He is credited with saving the London-based Philharmonia, after a cut in its grants, and is a keen sponsor of Glyndebourne opera and contemporary music in Britain. Mr Meyer married his second wife in a traditional ceremony in Scotland last year. Mrs Meyer, 30, who was educated at Westminster public school in London and Yale university, is expecting their first child.

Mr Meyer has three children. Two are from his first marriage and a third is from a relationship after his marriage broke down.

Sir George Christie, chairman of Glyndebourne, said Mr Meyer was a civilised man who would find it difficult to endure being in prison. "He would find it appalling. These allegations are absolutely awful and shocking. I became friends with him through Glyndebourne and I will remain friends with him." He added that Mr Meyer was "a very enlightened patron of the arts."



Meyer: "quiet man with good sense of humour"

David Whelton, managing director of the Philharmonia Orchestra, who has known Mr Meyer for more than 10 years, said: "I find it totally impossible to believe. He is someone I would trust with my life. We at the Philharmonia stand absolutely with him and he has our full support," he added.

Nicholas Snowman, chief executive of the South Bank Centre, said Mr Meyer had made an enormous contribution to the arts in Britain. "He is a very quiet, private man with a good sense of humour. He is sociable and very agreeable to be with. He loves talking about music but he is not a show off. There is not a trace of vulgarity about him."

Keith Bragg, a friend for 14 years and piccolo player with the Philharmonia, has stayed at Mr Meyer's house near Aix, in the south of France. "He is a very loyal and warm friend. He is a serious-minded man who cares passionately about the orchestra. "I can't see how these allegations could possibly be true. There's been no hint of impropriety of this sort at all in his life. I have known Vincent a long time and I don't believe these charges."

Mr Bragg said Mr Meyer had a good relationship with his first wife, who lives in Paris, and is devoted to their children.

"As a father he is brilliant. I have seen him playing with the children on holiday and they are just a normal happy family."

Mr Meyer's wife said she believed her husband was innocent. Speaking from the couple's home in Geneva, she said: "There is no question in my mind. Everything will be absolutely fine."

Phillipa Lepley, whose wedding-dress designs may have been favoured by Ffion Jenkins, who will marry William Hague next week

Ffion may decide on something old

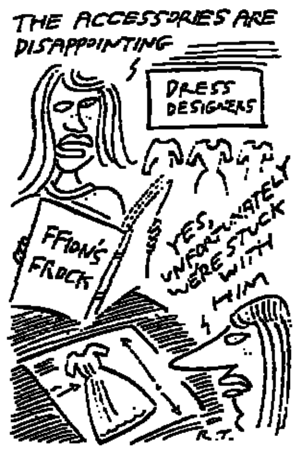
By Katherine Bergen

A LONDON designer with a flair for dressing glamorous blondes has emerged as the favourite in the guessing game over who has made Ffion Jenkins's dress for her wedding to William Hague on Friday — and it is possible that the Conservative leader's fiancée has opted for a second-hand number.

Friends of Miss Jenkins have pointed to Phillipa Lepley's boutique on the Fulham Road as top of her shopping list. Associates of Neil Cunningham, who made the black lace number Miss Jenkins wore in Blackpool for her party conference debut, confirm that he has not been asked to try again.

Julia Carling, Ulrika Johnson and Caron Keating are among other well-known blondes who married wearing Lepley.

A spokeswoman from *Brides* magazine describes Phillipa Lepley's style as "clean, elegant and classic". The dresses often include beading and corset-style bodices. "Phillipa is particularly good with curvy figures." Most dresses are in the £2,000-£2,500 range.


THE ACCESSORIES ARE DISAPPOINTING
DRESS DESIGNERS
FFION'S FROCK
YES, UNFORTUNATELY WE'RE STUCK WITH HIM
R.T.

One of Ms Lepley's sales assistants appeared to confirm the latest rumours when asked about the dress: "She actually didn't get it from this particular shop. We have heard on the grapevine that she may have bought it from the Wedding Shop."

If so, this would show admirable frugality on Miss Jenkins's part. The Chelsea shop in question — where the couple have their wedding list — sells second-hand dresses by some of the country's best known designers, including Ms Lepley, Catherine Walker and Bruce Oldfield.

But amid all the secrecy surrounding Miss Jenkins's plans, the Wedding Shop itself was insisting that it had nothing to do with the hottest dress on the political scene.

As for the couple's honeymoon, reports that it will be spent at the romantic Lake Palace Hotel in India could well have been planted as a false trail. One Tory official boasted: "They are going somewhere the press will never find them."

Julia Carling, on her wedding day, in a Lepley dress

Suicide wired himself to mains

By Mark Henderson

A COMPUTER programmer who owed hundreds of pounds to pub landlords killed himself with a Heath Robinson suicide device that electrocuted him while he slept, an inquest has heard.

Geoffrey White, 52, of Reedham, Norfolk, took his own life last month by wiring his arms to a mains socket and setting a timer to start the current in the middle of the night. He wrapped copper wire leads around both arms between his elbows and shoulders, attached them to a timer set for 4.30am and plugged the system in, before drinking himself to sleep.

Police found his body on November 30 after breaking into his home when neighbours became concerned. He was last seen on November 27.

Mr White, a freelance computer programmer, was a loner who drank heavily, Norwich Coroner's Court was told. Jonathan Collorick, landlord of the Lord Nelson where Mr White was a regular customer, said he often drank 15 pints of beer a day.

Mr White owed £500 to Mr Collorick after cheques he had cashed had bounced. He was also in debt to other local landlords.

No members of Mr White's family attended the inquest. William Armstrong, the coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. It was "abundantly clear" that Mr White intended to take his own life, he said.

Police faked car crash to trap paedophile

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE faked a road accident as part of a massive investigation that uncovered a paedophile who had eluded justice since the 1970s. David Stanley, 49, was jailed for 18 years yesterday after being convicted of abusing boys who were in his charge as a scoutmaster and a care assistant at a private children's home.

Sixteen men, including a Church of England vicar, were praised for their courage last night for giving public evidence that they were abused by Stanley as boys. Stanley, now married with two teenage children, said the accusations were lies.

West Mercia police launched an investigation in November 1996 after becoming suspicious of him following an incident of indecent assault at a swimming baths in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire. One man was jailed for 12 months and officers began looking closely into Stanley's background.

Police arranged an elaborate plan to seize his home computer before he was able to erase pornographic pictures stored on it. They staged a collision in the road outside his house. Stanley came out, and the police then held him and rushed in to carry out a legal search.

When police extended their operations, they discovered that Stanley had faced allegations of abuse in 1979 at the Cotsbrook Hall care home in Shifnal, Shropshire. He had resigned and the case was abandoned for lack of corroboration. Working with social workers and a charity which helps victims of abuse, officers traced people who were children and staff in the 1970s, interviewing 300 witnesses around the country.

At Worcester Crown Court, Stanley, a computer consultant in Telford, was convicted of 16 sex offences and one charge of possessing pornographic photographs with a view to distributing them on the Internet. He was given 16 years for the abuse and two years for the pornography.

The abuse, committed against boys aged ten to 15, began while he was a scoutmaster between 1970 and 1976, and then continued for another three years when he worked at the children's home. Judge Michael Mott said the photographs showed his proclivity for boys had not diminished.

Cotsbrook Hall was owned by the same company responsible for the Bryn Alyn home in Wrexham, whose owner John Allen was jailed for six years for paedophile offences.

After the case, Detective Chief Inspector John Cashion said of the witnesses: "It has taken immense courage for these men. They will never forget these attacks by a man they should have been able to trust."

Test driver who killed man gets 5 months

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Editor

A GERMAN test driver for Vauxhall was jailed for five months yesterday for causing the death of a motoring journalist by dangerous driving.

Klaus Menk was also banned at Luton Crown Court from driving for two years. Judge Alan Wilkie and the dead man's girlfriend urged General Motors, Vauxhall's parent company, to end its policy of testing on rural roads around Britain.

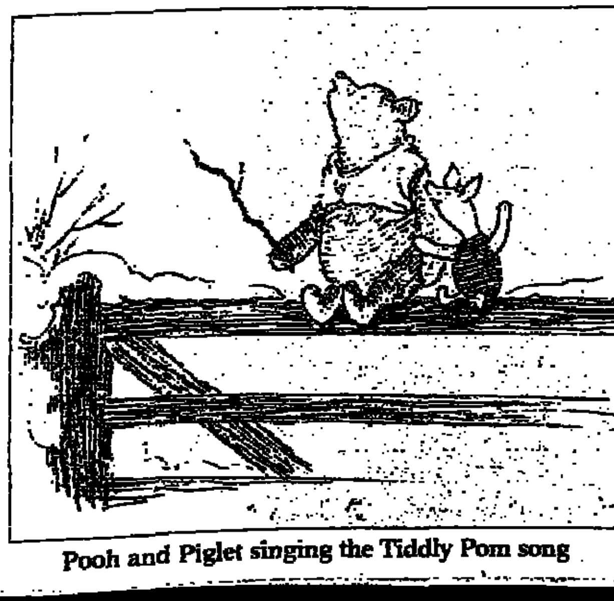
Menk, 48, had been flown from his home in Frankfurt to Britain by Opel, Vauxhall's sister manufacturer in Germany, to take part in tests that pitted Vauxhall cars against rivals. Driving a Peugeot 306, Menk tried to follow a left-hand drive Vauxhall Astra in overtaking a Skoda when he came to a blind bend on the B655 near Hitchin in Hertfordshire and was confronted by an oncoming car.

The driver, Richard Longworth, 39, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, died from internal injuries six days later.

Mary Williams, Mr Longworth's girlfriend, who founded the road safety organisation BRAKE after her mother was killed in a road accident five years ago, said: "It is extremely disappointing that the judge should impose a sentence of just five months." She said she hoped BRAKE could work with General Motors to establish new training courses for its drivers.

Sketch of Pooh duet goes for song

By John Shaw



Pooh and Piglet singing the Tiddly Pom song

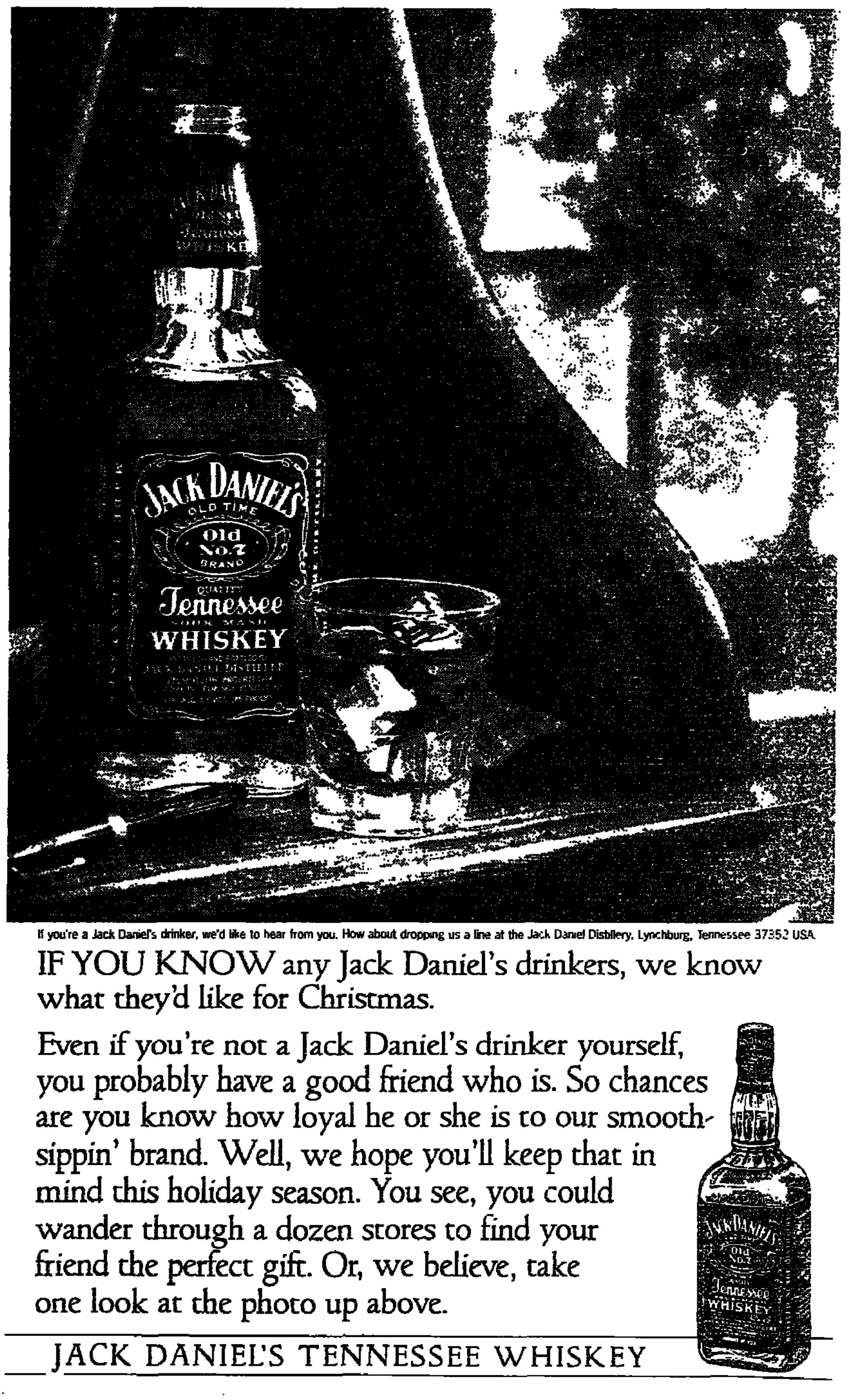
A DRAWING of Winnie the Pooh and his friend Piglet, picked up for just over £3 in 1958, was sold for £31,050 at Christie's, South Kensington, yesterday.

The work by E. H. Shepard, who illustrated the classic children's stories by A. A. Milne, originally appeared in *The House at Pooh Corner* in 1928.

Shepard, who died in 1976, came to prominance with the publication of *Winnie the Pooh* in 1926. A modest man, he often gave his original drawings to admirers. In recent years they have made enormous prices at auction.

The study shows Pooh and Piglet sitting on top of a snow-covered five-bar gate singing the "Tiddly Pom" song. It was estimated at £12,000 to £18,000 and was bought by an anonymous buyer, who had previously bought another Shepard entitled *Eeyore's Birthday* for £17,250 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000).

The artist has now become a market leader in the specialised world of children's illustrators. A sketch for a chapter heading in *The House at Pooh Corner* made £67,500 in July and a drawing of Pooh and Piglet inspecting their footprints in the snow went for £80,500 at Christie's last December.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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The secret war against the Jackal

As Carlos the Jackal goes on trial in Paris, a former head of the French secret service reveals the life-or-death row that raged behind the closed doors of the Elysée palace when President Mitterrand asked his security chiefs how to deal with the terrorist holding the French state to ransom . . .

News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Headmasters cry foul over pupils' unsporting abuse

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT school pupils who shout abuse at opposing players or officials should be banned from taking part in any sports events, according to guidelines set down by headmasters.

After a series of incidents on and off the pitch when "sledging" — personal abuse to intimidate an opponent — has been used, heads have decided to act. Guidelines have been sent to all members of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference urging them to act against bad behaviour.

The circular, from the conference's sports sub-committee, states that it is the responsibility of heads to ensure that "high standards of conduct obtain in school sports". There should be no "foul or abusive language" and "open criticism of, or dissent from, umpiring or refereeing decisions by those playing or watching is always unacceptable". The committee recommends that any pupil who is in breach of the guidelines should be formally warned — with further sanctions to include suspension from matches.

Chris Hirst, the committee's chairman, said: "We are not laying down laws. But we are trying to help headmasters by saying that we think you should have the sanctions."

Mr Hirst, Headmaster of Sedbergh, where Will Carling, the former captain of the England rugby union team, was a pupil, said that the world of professional sport has "raced ahead and attitudes have changed games. All schools have a responsibility to channel competitive instincts into fair play."

The controversy over the behaviour of boys comes after a row at a cricket match in June between Marlborough and Radley colleges. A Marlborough batsman complained of verbal abuse and refused to declare the innings in time to give Radley a realistic prospect of victory. Radley's staff and pupils apologised for their team's sledging, but Richard Morgan, the warden, later announced that it was "in the interests of both schools" to suspend fixtures.

The committee is also concerned about the bad behaviour and foul language of a minority of spectators and says that "the school has a responsibility for the conduct of every aspect of its sport — including the behaviour of supporters". Mr Hirst said: "The parents are our greatest supporters but we want to ensure that support should always be positive."

The Independent Schools Football Association already has its own disciplinary procedure. In the knockout cup it is overseen by David Elleray, a leading Premiership referee and housemaster at Harrow.

RICHARD POHLE

Victoria Wood with children Henry, 5, and Grace, 9, after receiving the OBE

Wood and Stoppard honoured at Palace

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE comedian Victoria Wood received her OBE insignia at yesterday's Buckingham Palace investiture and Tom Stoppard became the first dramatist to be knighted since Sir Terence Rattigan.

Ms Wood, 44, currently writing a new television series to be screened in September, said: "I love my job and it's very nice to think that your work is appreciated. All you do is try to sell tickets, so this is a treat."

Sir Tom, an emigré who came to Britain when he was 8, said: "I was instantly proud. I have felt English almost from the day I arrived, but the knighthood puts some kind of seal on that emotion." He added: "I was really sad that my mother died a year ago. She would have liked it very much."

Sir Tom said the Prince of Wales had told him he took personal pleasure in presenting the knighthood. "In the theatre, we think of the Prince of Wales as being a staunch ally."

Among other recipients of awards yesterday was Robert Jordan, the former doorkeeper at 10 Downing Street, who received his MBE insignia.

Leading article, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Briton is held over Internet sex scheme

American customs officers have arrested a Briton accused of selling paedophile and other pornography on the Internet. Scotland Yard said that Ray Jones, 34, from Ealing, west London, was held after he landed at Miami.

He has been secretly indicted by a federal grand jury after a 15-month operation by the Yard and US investigators. They examined a pornography operation in which photographs were copied in Britain and sent to an Internet service provider in America.

Kate DNA tests

Nearly 700 men have volunteered DNA samples to police seeking the killer of Kate Bushell, 14, whose throat was cut four weeks ago as she walked a neighbour's dog in an Exeter lane. Officers have called at 800 houses and taken 2,700 public calls.

Operations cut

The number of cancelled NHS operations is increasing. Between April and September, 23,569 patients had operations cancelled — 4 per cent up on the same period last year. The Health Minister Baroness Jay said the situation was "unsatisfactory".

Lottery culprits

Five shops, including a branch of Tesco, have been suspended from selling National Lottery tickets after council inspectors found them selling to children as young as 11. The culprits were among seven shops visited in Southwark, South London.

Cuffs for nurses

A hospital security chief wants handcuffs issued to staff to help restrain patients. Maurice Lloyd, a former police inspector, says they are needed to protect nurses and doctors at Warrington General Hospital, Cheshire, from violent attacks.

Former PC jailed

A policeman who stole £180 that a man left to his wife before committing suicide, has been jailed for two years. Former PC Michael Hall, 32, of Forest Town, Nottinghamshire, altered a suicide note that referred to £200, Nottingham Crown Court was told.

What a card

The same Christmas card showing two skating ducks has been exchanged every year since 1952 between John Alston and his friend Norma Cousins. It began after Mrs Cousins gave the Alstons, who had a farm pond in Suffolk, a pair of orphaned ducks.

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Heathrow fireball escalated with bewildering speed

Daniel McGrory and Michael Horsnell on questions to be answered

SAFETY experts are investigating how a simple fire above a hamburger restaurant at Heathrow's Terminal 1 paralysed the world's busiest international airport, stranded tens of thousands of passengers and caused hours of traffic gridlock yesterday.

As airlines struggled to restore normal services by this morning, the authorities defended their decision to shut down three of its terminal buildings and all road and rail links. Passengers had to wait ten hours for Terminal 1 to reopen.

Fire experts said that if the fire had taken hold during the morning rush hour it could have been catastrophic. One said: "This was a blaze that should not have spread so far, so fast."

Heathrow authorities still do not know how much damage was caused nor the cost of repairing the 29-year-old terminal, which had just undergone a £150 million refurbishment.

A total of 307 flights were cancelled yesterday, two thirds of them by British Airways. A BA spokesman said: "We hope to run a normal service by today, but there may be some knock-on effect, so travellers early in the day should telephone first."

Many trying to catch flights yesterday abandoned their cars on motorways and main roads. Thousands of passengers arriving on flights complained they had to wait hours for their baggage or for transport to take them to their cars. The Underground network was suspended. Terminals 2 and 3 were closed for several hours. A spokesman for BAA, the airports operator, said: "It was chaos, but we dare not take chances."

Detective Chief Inspector Phillip King defended his decision to close the airport central area. "It was not overreaction," he said. "At the time when the fire was taking hold, our concern was that it would spread to other terminals. Those coming into Heathrow had to pass Terminal 1, so we decided for safety first to shut down everything."

Paul Fox, Heathrow's safety and security director, said: "The fact that we had the terminal open again so soon proves that our safety plans were in good order."

Experts want to know why, within minutes, the blaze had mushroomed upwards and outwards, spreading through 600 feet of ducting and exploding through the roof. Firemen took four hours to bring it under control, crawling through narrow air vents.

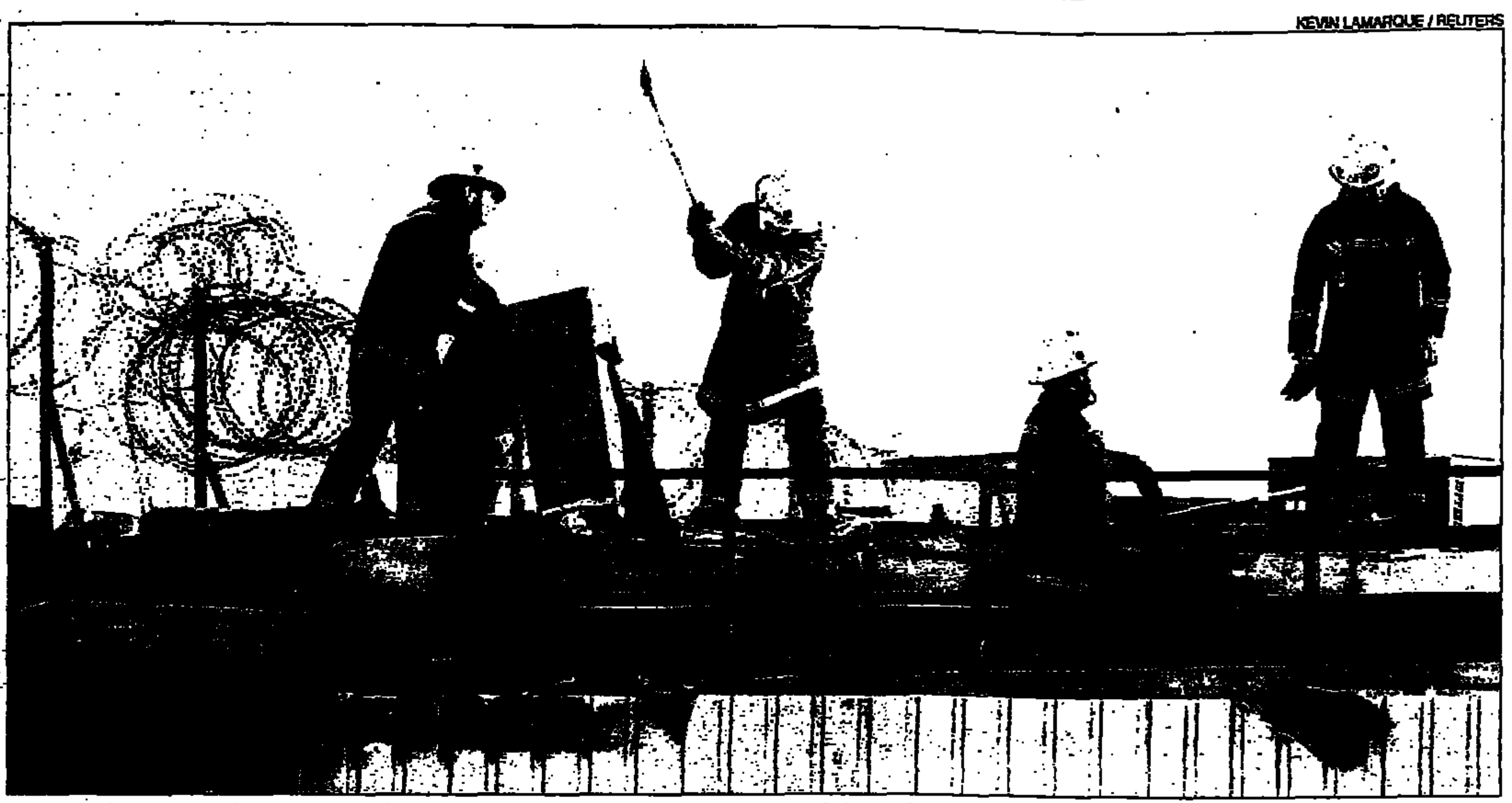
London Fire Brigade will continue what it called a "thorough and high profile investigation" today. Senior officers believe an accumulation of grease in an extractor duct above the Burger King restaurant caught fire and spread through piping.

The flames engulfed and destoyed a plant room on the roof containing all the machinery, plumbing, lighting, power and heating which keeps Terminal 1 alive. Officers said the damage would have been worse but for the installation of a £1 million membrane in the roof.

Ed Galea, director of the Fire Safety Engineering Group at Greenwich University, suggested there was a design flaw. "The fire spread rapidly from all accounts, which leads us to suspect that in the ceiling voids area there are not sufficient fire spread-prevention techniques, sprinkler and detection systems."

BAA dismissed suggestions that safety had been sacrificed in its refurbishment budget.

KEVIN LAMARQUE / REUTERS



Firefighters on the Terminal 1 building. Flames from a restaurant spread through 600 feet of ducting and exploded through the roof

SHOPFRONT TO THE WORLD

HEATHROW, the busiest international airport in the world, started life as a tented village in 1946 serving 18 destinations with a handful of airlines making 9,000 flights a year.

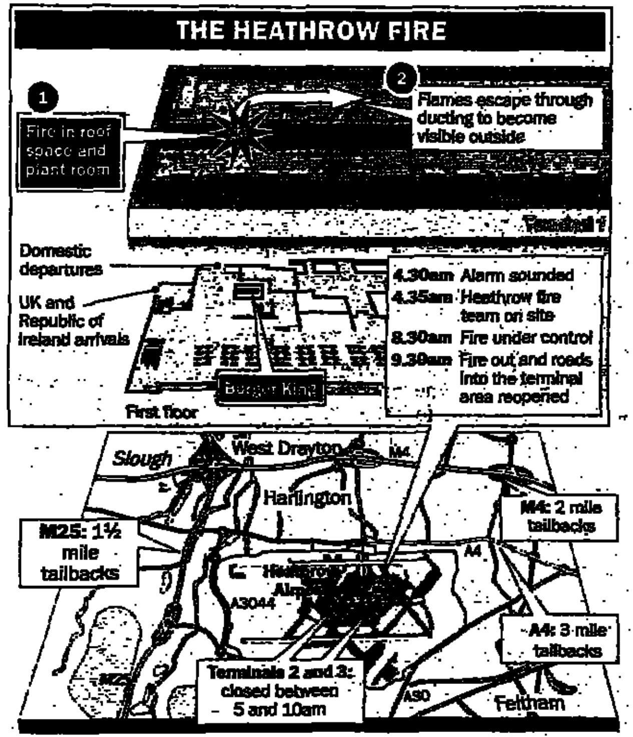
The airport now handles 55 million passengers a year with 93 airlines flying to 220 destinations. There are more than 420,000 flights a year and staff deal with 60 million items of baggage. At this time of the year Terminal One can expect to handle 70,000 passengers a day. Only O'Hare airport in Chicago deals with more passengers in a year.

In the international league Heathrow handles 15 million more passengers a year than its nearest rivals: Frankfurt and Hong Kong.

It also generates £3 billion in wages alone each year for the economy, supporting more than 190 businesses across the country. Around 80,000 jobs are in the local area. It is, perhaps, ironical that the fire started above a fast food outlet, as the airport prides itself on being one of Britain's biggest eating places.

Each day 26,000 cups of tea, 6,500 pints of beer and 6,500 sandwiches are sold to the public. Such is the airport's commercial retail power that it accounts for 10 per cent of the perfume sales in Britain.

THE HEATHROW FIRE



1
Fire in roof space and plant room
2
Flames escape through ducting to become visible outside
Terminal 1
Domestic departures
UK and Republic of Ireland arrivals
Burger King
First floor
4.30am Alarm sounded
4.35am Heathrow fire team on site
8.30am Fire under control
9.30am Fire out and roads into the terminal area reopened
Slough
West Drayton
M4
Harlington
M25: 1½ mile tailbacks
M4: 2 mile tailbacks
A4
Heathrow Airport
A3044
A4: 3 mile tailbacks
Terminals 2 and 3: closed between 5 and 10am
A30
Feltham
M25

Travellers with nowhere to go tell tales of woe

By Paul Whittaker

THE fire which brought Heathrow Airport to a standstill at the start of the Christmas rush yesterday created a traffic jam of epic proportions.

The closing down of Terminal 1 — which would normally have dispersed 70,000 passengers to all points of the globe — led to scenes of confusion and chaos as besieged airline counter staff struggled to cope with the ever-increasing numbers. Passenger movements were virtually paralysed with endless queues of travellers and luggage trolleys overflowing at other terminals.

The temporary shutdown of the Underground access between 5am and 8am caused huge delays with gridlock in all transport arteries in and out of the airport.

Some airlines told passengers to go home. Others diverted flights to other airports. Some holidaymakers were invited to swap plane tickets for rail passes.

Early yesterday Air France cancelled four of its Paris flights and advised its customers to take a train to Waterloo station where their airline tickets would be accepted on Eurostar.

Several airline staff seemed as much in the dark as their customers, giving out conflicting information about whether or not the airport was open and if flights had been cancelled.

Many people caught in transit were left stranded while others had no money to pay for an overnight stay in a hotel. Some were advised to seek refunds from their travel agents. A mother with a child expecting to fly on Lufthansa to Hamburg was in tears as she pleaded with airport staff that she did not have anywhere to stay in London.

A silver-wedding anniversary holiday on Concorde ended disastrously for a couple from Newcastle upon Tyne who were forced to catch a train home. Ernest and Dorothy Wheatley, who had saved for years, were booked to take a domestic flight to Teesside after returning from New York.

Liz Bee, 48, of Salisbury, travelled almost three hours by bus to meet her British Airways flight to Dusseldorf only to be told upon her arrival to go home. "Nobody seems to know what the hell is going on," she said.

Lesley Tinine, 28, of Wimbledon, was told to seek a refund on her planned four-day visit to Moscow after arriving at the airport at 5 am.

Some passengers were left stranded outside the airport unable to reach their cars in the car park and shuttle buses delayed by several hours.

AND THE TEMPERATURE AT HEATHROW IS 1,357°F

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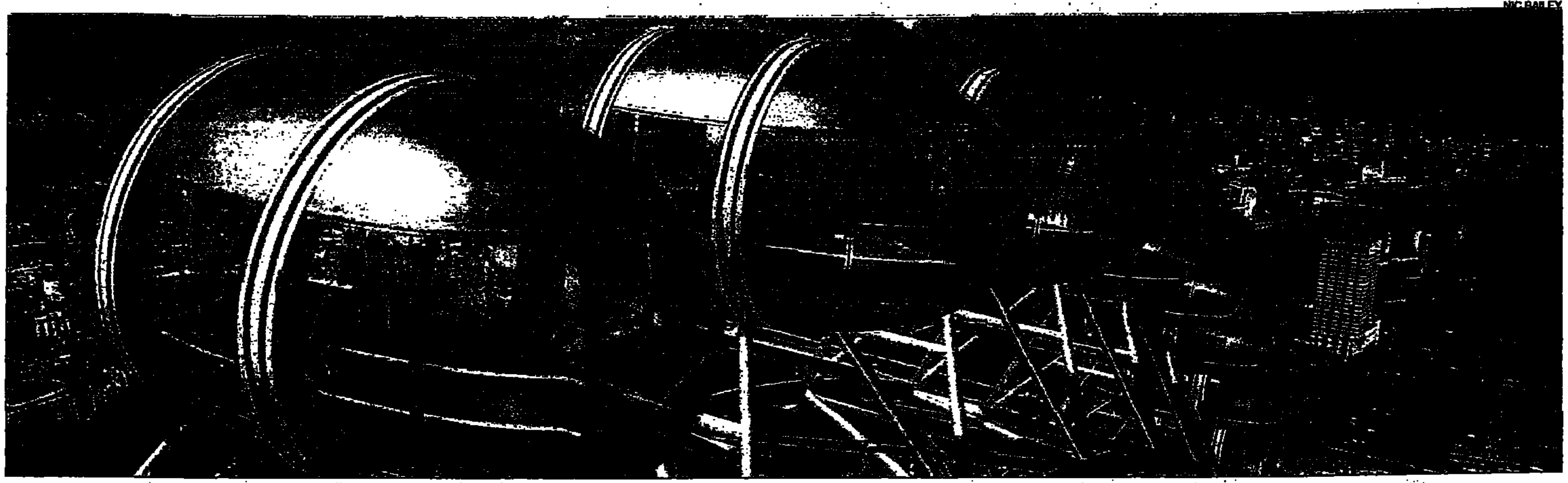

THIS is how capsules on the world's biggest Ferris wheel will look when it is built on the Thames South Bank to celebrate the millennium. The computer-generated image shows how "space capsule" cabins and slim supports will reduce the visual impact of the slowly-turning, 500ft-diameter wheel. Its builder will be chosen in the new year from three contestants, two British and one Japanese. Construction will start in March and end in September 1999.

Fury as BBC shoots down Eurofighter

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BBC *Panorama* programme criticising the £40 billion Eurofighter aircraft project is going ahead on Monday, despite the threat of libel action from British Aerospace, the prime contractor in Britain for the multirole jet.

The programme — which includes interviews with critics who claim the project is out of date and a waste of taxpayers' money — has led to an angry exchange of letters between the BBC and BAe. At the heart of the row is the fact that David Lomax, the reporter making the programme, produced an earlier film about Eurofighter for BBC2's *Newsnight* in June which led to a complaint from BAe.

Fraser Steel, head of the BBC complaints unit, agreed in writing that the *Newsnight* film lacked balance. This did not satisfy BAe whose chief executive, Sir Richard Evans, wrote to John Birt, the BBC Director-General, complaining about the programme's "inaccuracies" and demanding further investigation. This further complaint is now believed to have been largely upheld by the BBC's internal complaints system. But the corporation's formal response is not expected until after *Panorama* has gone out.

Sir Richard was taken aback to discover that Mr Lomax was to produce a similar film about Eurofighter for *Panorama*. He was so concerned that it was "once again" going to be weighted in favour of Eurofighter's critics that he made another complaint to Mr Birt, and also engaged Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners, the libel lawyers. Sir Richard has refused to provide either a written statement to be read out during *Panorama* or a company spokesman to be interviewed until BAe has received assurances that the film is accurate and fair. The MoD also declined to appear.

Eurofighter, which will cost Britain more than £15 billion for 232 aircraft, has been developed in partnership with Germany, Italy and Spain. The first jet will be in service in 2002.

Think-tank says Tories were good for the poor

By Nicholas Wood

CLAIMS that the number of people suffering hardship increased under the Tories are to be dismissed in a report from a right-wing think-tank.

The free-market Institute of Economic Affairs claims that respected groups such as the Child Poverty Action Group and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation distorted figures to press for for higher state benefits or policy changes.

David Green, director of the IEA's health and welfare unit, says that a fair reading of official statistics suggests that the poorest section of society became better off, and that numbers below the poverty line fell. He adds: "It's scandalous that it got into the public imagination that things got worse."

His report, to be published in a few weeks, will renew controversy over the impact of the free-market policies. Dr Green says: "The headline claim was that the bottom 10 per cent of the population were 17 per cent worse off over the period 1979 to 1992. In fact, they were better off.

"On the usual definition of the poverty line as 50 per cent of average income, the number below it in 1979 was 8 per cent, compared with 6 per cent in 1992 and 5 per cent in 1995."

According to a draft of Dr Green's report, the Rowntree inquiry of 1995 reached its conclusions by deducting housing costs from incomes. It concluded that "right at the bottom, before-housing-cost incomes were no higher than in 1991-92 than they had been in 1979; after-housing-cost incomes had fallen 17 per cent".

But he says it was wrong to subtract housing costs because "the home we live in is an important element in our standard of life". The high mortgage rates of the 1980s were a further distortion, artificially depressing income levels when the deduction was made.

Also, the figure made no allowance for improved standards. The proportion in the bottom tenth with central heating rose from 39 per cent in 1979 to 74 per cent in 1992. There were also big increases in ownership of fridge-freezers, cars and videos.

If living standards were measured by household expenditure rather than income, the poor have also been doing better, says the report. A survey by the Institute of Fiscal Studies found that the bottom 10 per cent of people by income in 1992 spent on average 27 per cent more than in 1979, before deduction of housing costs.

The report also highlights a sharp increase in the numbers dependent on state benefits, up from 8.4 per cent in 1971 to 17.4 per cent in 1994. Family breakdown is said to be the biggest single factor.

The criticisms were rejected by Richard Best, director of the Rowntree Foundation, who said: "Nobody disputes that during the Thatcher years, the rich got 61 per cent better off and the poor gained little or nothing from the growth in prosperity."

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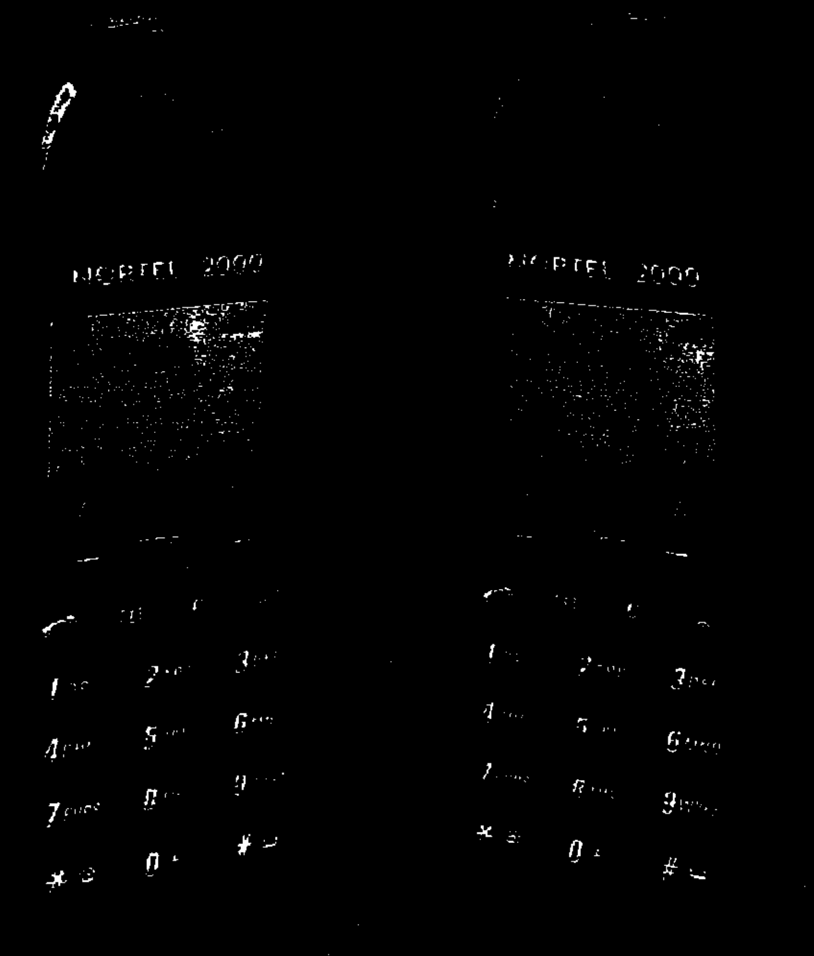

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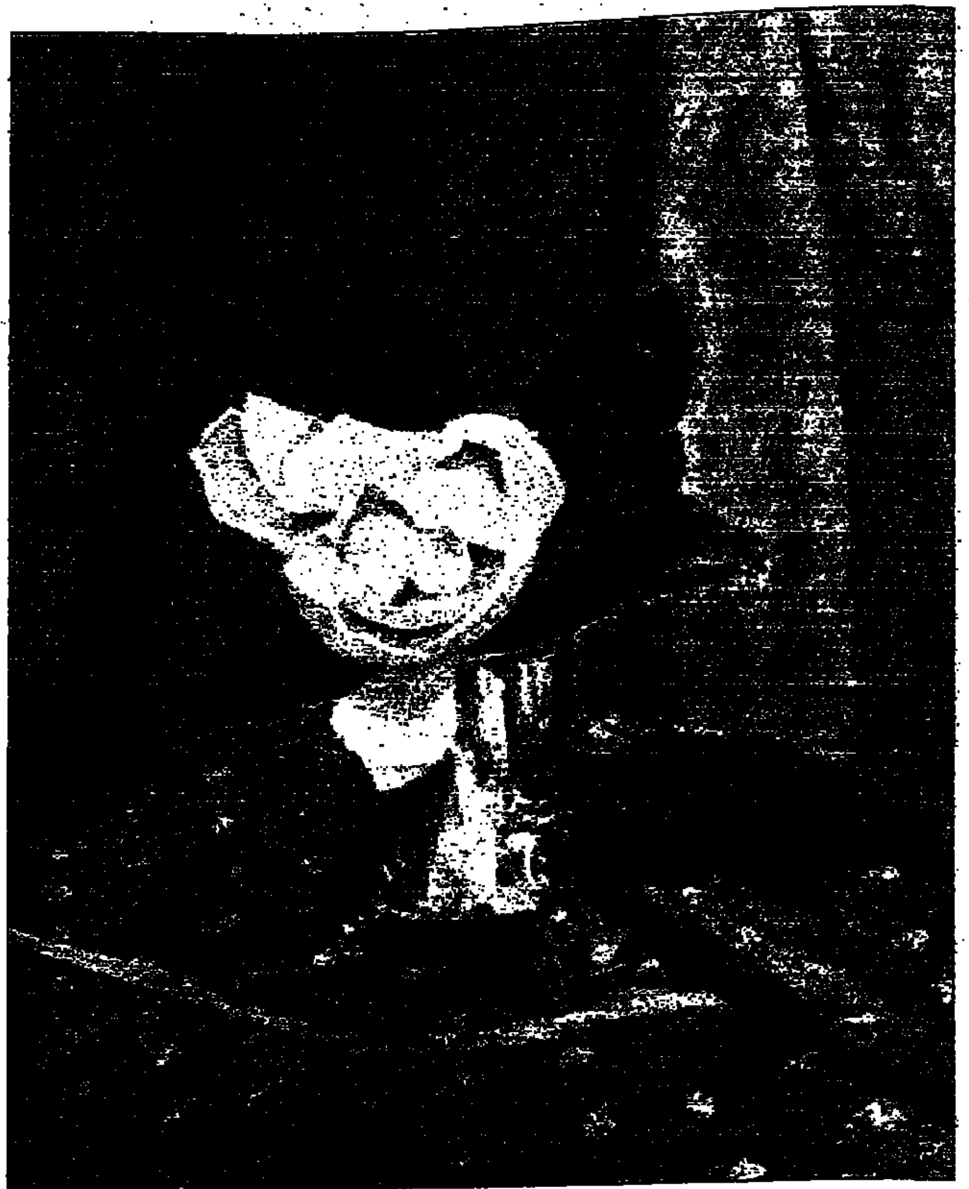
How Churchill poured oils on troubled waters



"I rejoice in the highest lights and brightest colours": *Ruins of the Cathedral at St Vaast, Arras* (1947) and Churchill at work on what he self-deprecatingly called his "daubs" in 1939. Right, a still life of a magnolia, circa 1930

Sir Winston found release in painting, but others now see artistic merit. A new exhibition of his work may reveal its true value, writes **Philip Delves Broughton**

Painting was more than a pastime to Sir Winston Churchill. In 1949 he told Sir John Rothenstein, director of the Tate Gallery: "If it weren't for painting, I couldn't live. I couldn't bear the strain of things." From January 5 to 17, the largest ever exhibition of Churchill's paintings goes on show at Sotheby's in London. It will prove that Churchill was more than just an enthusiastic amateur.

Churchill's paintings, which he self-deprecatingly referred to as "daubs", fit easily and unembarrassingly into 20th-century British art. David Coombs, the curator of the exhibition, says: "His works are being appreciated as much for their innate merit as for their painter."

Last week, Lord Harris of Peckham, the former Conservative Party treasurer and carpet magnate, paid £150,000 for one of Churchill's landscapes, *Mimizan, Landes*, painted in 1927, amid speculation that it was a wedding present for William Hague and Ffion Jenkins.

Earlier this year, at the sale of the effects of Pamela Harriman, the American Ambassador to Paris and at one point Churchill's daughter-in-law, another Churchill painting went for around £100,000.

Sir Edward Heath owns a couple of Churchills and Mrs Thatcher was loaned one at 10 Downing Street.

In comparison, Adolf Hitler's paintings, painted mostly before he became the Führer, sell for up to £3,000. While Hitler's failures as a struggling artist in Vienna drove him into politics, Churchill took to painting to relax from political life. Where Hitler's works are grim and workmanlike, Churchill's display an exuberant escapism. He said: "I rejoice in the highest lights and brightest colours."

Churchill was introduced to painting in 1915 by his sister-in-law, Lady Gwendeline Churchill. He had just been forced to resign as First Lord of the Admiralty after the Dardanelles disaster. He was 40 and his years in the political wilderness were just beginning. "Painting," he wrote, "came to my rescue in a most trying time."

When he did not take to Lady Gwendeline's watercolours, she suggested he try oils instead. The thicker paint was more to his taste. Over the next few years, he was rarely without his canvas and pallet when he went to stay with friends in the country.

Lady Gwendeline Churchill at Hoe Farm, circa 1920

He also liked painting in the South of France, Morocco and Egypt. He was not fussy about subject matter, painting landscapes and portraits, still lives and buildings. He became close friends with such leading British painters as Sir John Lavery, Sir William Nicholson and Walter Richard Sickert.

Churchill's canvasses could be both robust and sensitive. Most would agree with the verdict of Harry Truman, who, when asked what he thought of an exhibtion of 35 Churchill works in Kansas City in 1958, said: "Damn good. At least you can tell what they are and that is more than you can say for a lot of these modern painters."

Churchill had time to paint just one picture during the war but, after the Casablanca conference, he and President Roosevelt found themselves with a day to spare in Morocco. At Churchill's suggestion, the two men stayed overnight in Marrakesh to catch dawn over the Atlas mountains. Churchill painted the scene and sent it to Roosevelt who hung it in the White House.

After the 1945 general election, Churchill took up his brushes with renewed energy and continued to paint into his eighties, always wearing one of the special Austin Reed designed Siren Suits he wore as wartime Prime Minister. He described his painting as "a joyride in a paint box".

For this exhibition, the various Churchill clans, from the Soames to the Sandys, have contributed works. "Lady Soames, Churchill's daughter, told me they have all stripped their walls," Mr Coombs said. "I am sure that he would have been delighted to know that his pictures are now fetching so much.

Grim and workmanlike: Hitler's painting of Ypres, 1916

"He did not give many of them away when he was alive as he did not think they were worth much and he liked to monitor his own progress."

Visitors to January's exhibition will, however, probably share the thought expressed by the President of the Royal Academy when 62 Churchill paintings were shown in 1959. He told the artist: "I can't think how you have found time in your life to do anything else but paint."

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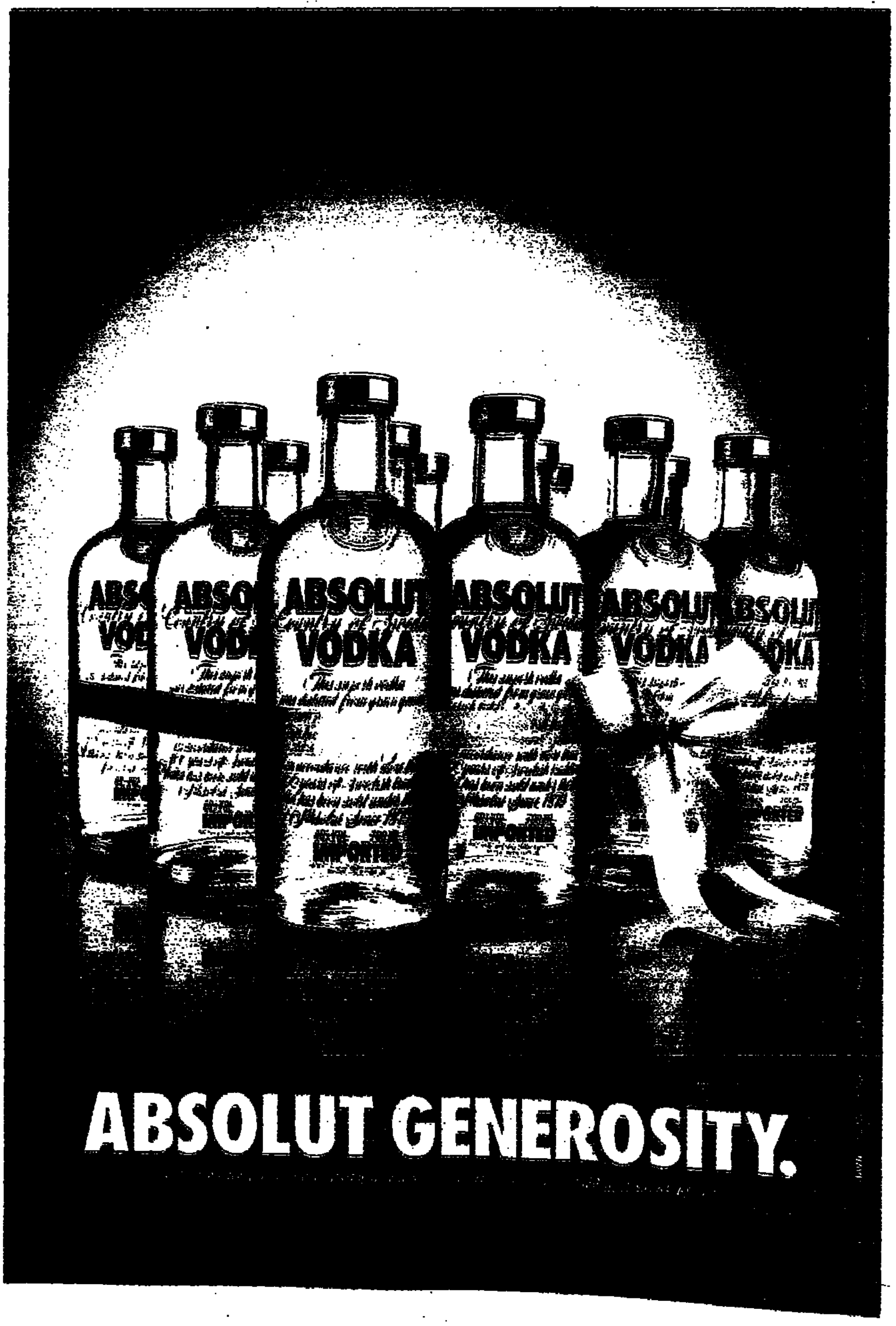


هكذا من الإصل

How the new boss will ginger up Virgin

Carol Midgley and **Kathryn Knight** review Chris Evans's record as an employer

BRITAIN now has a media tycoon who speaks directly to his customers nationwide over breakfast each day, sharing his thoughts on the state of the nation. It sounds like a joke character from a movie. In fact, it is Chris Evans.

Insiders at Virgin Radio say that the atmosphere has been one of unbridled celebration since it was revealed this week that their maverick breakfast DJ had bought the station, beating the corporate Capital Radio. Evans declared that he knew nothing of the business side, and would be "leaving it to the experts".

But former employees say that staff may see another side to the millionaire's creative genius. Evans, 31, may be revered for his wacky humour in a career that spans Manchester's Piccadilly Radio, Radio 1, and Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast* and *TFI Friday*, but he has been feared for ruthlessness as an employer. In an exclusive interview with *Arena* magazine out next week, he confesses to tyranny in the past but claims to have mellowed since the days when, it is claimed, *Big Breakfast* staff would spit at his dressing room door because he was so egotistic.

"There are ways of handling certain situations that I could have handled better," he says. "I admit that, but now I've learnt from those mistakes. I don't do that any more."

Twenty-four hours after the Virgin deal was announced, Evans gave the warning that he would not be entirely hands-off as boss. He said David Campbell, his chief executive, would handle the business side, but: "I can always overrule him. I intend to if I think he is wrong."

A perfectionist, Evans demands the high standards from others that he imposes on himself. One who worked on *The Big Breakfast* with him for nine months said: "He's got enormous energy and has this knack of making you feel really privileged to be in the golden circle. But if you irritate him — which you can do very easily — then he can turn on you ferociously."

Even by Evans's standards, last week was eventful. Signing a three-year contract with Channel 4 for £30 million gave him much of the collateral he needed to buy 75 per cent of Virgin Radio for £80 million. His Ginger group of companies also makes *TFI Friday*, *The Danny Baker Show* for Talk Radio, and will be developing a golf show for Channel 4 and a soap. Foreign sales of the format for his game show, *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*, are estimated to have made £3 million.

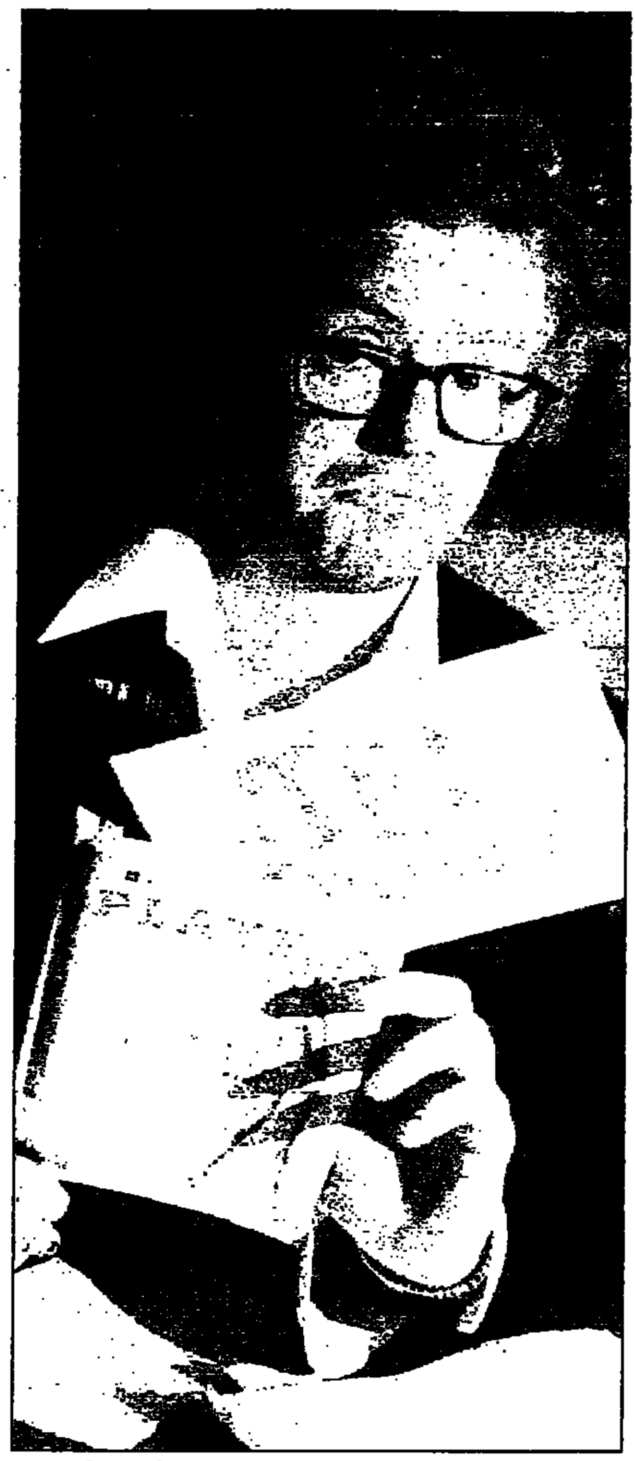
Evans tells *Arena* that pressure has often made him overreact. "When you've got these pressures on you, you're bound to make a few mistakes. And who doesn't shout at people? I hardly shout at people any more, but I still would if I had to."

Maria Costello, his PA at Radio 1, was sacked last year after incurring Evans's wrath when arrangements — for which she was not responsible — went wrong. The following Monday, Evans and his team joked about her departure live on radio. She said: "I don't think Chris has any idea what he puts people through."

Holly Samos, a researcher and one of the "posse" on his Radio 1 show, was quizzed persistently on air by Evans about her love life, leading to a flood of complaints. Another researcher, Justin Bradley, was subjected to on-air humiliation when Evans said Bradley had fiddled expenses, and read out an apology.

A source at Ginger Productions said: "He has incredible energy. In that sense, he is an amazing boss. There is no room for apathy. But if you don't confirm to his expectations, then you get a very bad time."

Evans tells *Arena*: "The people at Ginger all love the fact that they work in the media. If they don't, I give them a kick up the arse and I say 'Look, do you appreciate this is one of the best jobs in the world? Even I think that now, I think that every day, so surely you should think it too'."



On Channel 4's *TFI Friday*. Evans says: "This is one of the best jobs in the world. I think that every day"

Early days: in leaner times, Evans worked as a Tarzan-o-Gram in Warrington, Cheshire

Winner: *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*

Co-presenting: on Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast* with Gaby Roslin. Evans admits to past tyranny

Starting out: from his career at Piccadilly Radio

Moving on: Evans at the BBC on his first day as presenter of the Radio 1 morning show

Foot in the door: with Richard Branson on his first morning as breakfast presenter for Virgin Radio

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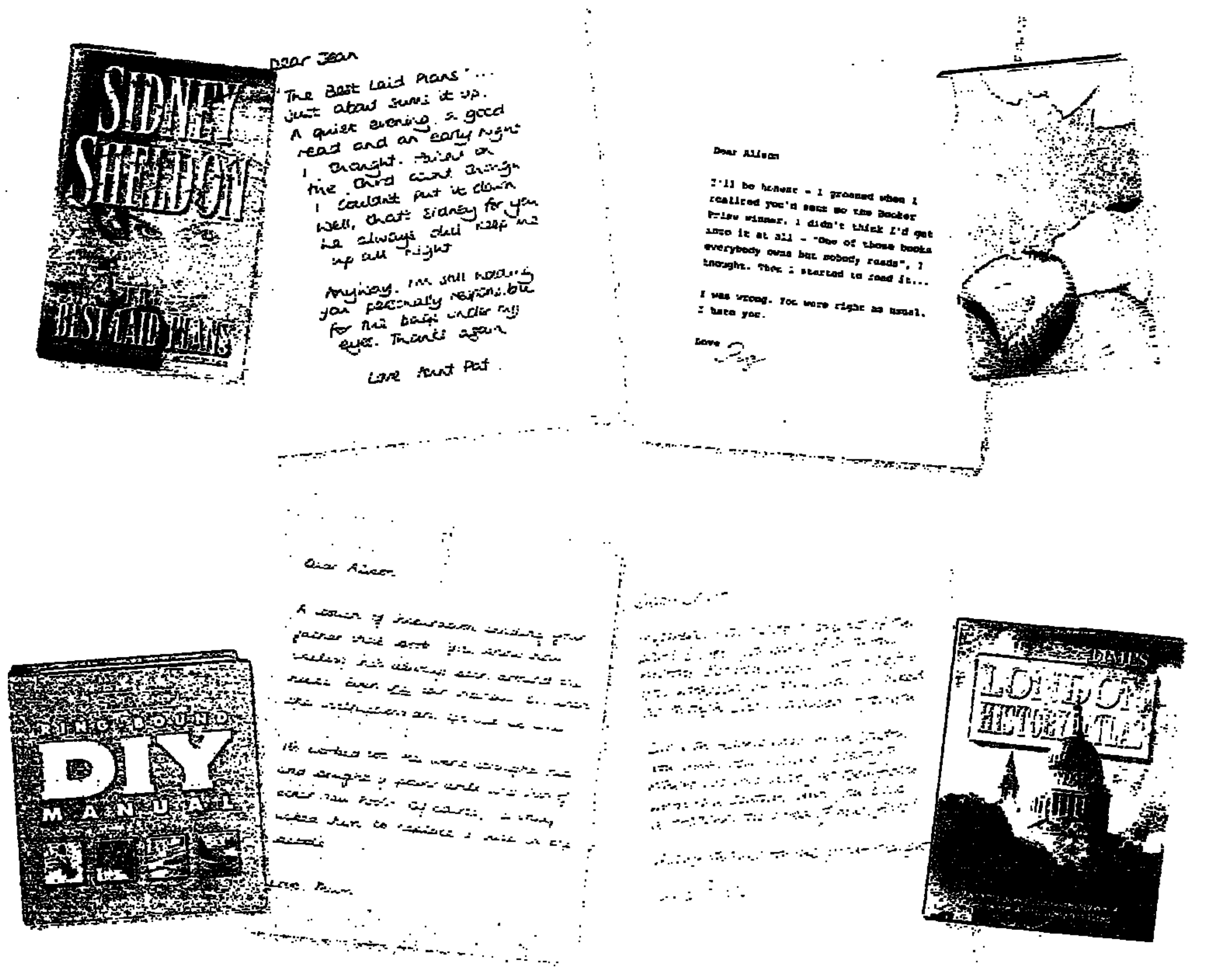


Dear Jean

"The Best Laid Plans"... just about sums it up. A quiet evening, a good read and an early night I thought. [illegible] the third count though I couldn't put it down. Well, that's Sidney for you he always did keep me up all night

Anyway, I'm still holding you personally responsible for the bags under my eyes. Thanks again

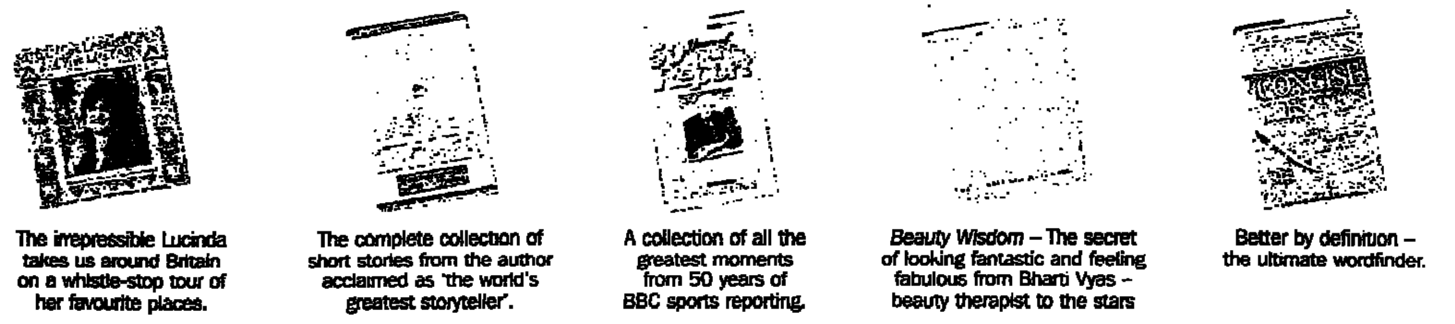
Love Aunt Pat

Dear Alison

I'll be honest - I groaned when I realised you'd sent me the Booker Prize winner. I didn't think I'd get into it at all - "One of those books everybody owns but nobody reads", I thought. Then I started to read it...

I was wrong. You were right as usual. I hate you.

Love



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Stop moaning, Tories tell Labour 'sisters'

By Polly Newton, political reporter

FEMALE Labour MPs who complain about sexism in the Commons are naive, spoilt and over-sensitive, according to their Tory counterparts.

Several Labour women told the makers of *Westminster Women*, to be screened next month on ITV, that they had to suffer cruel taunts from male MPs. Jane Griffiths, who took Reading East for Labour on May 1, claims in the programme that two Conservatives hold their hands in front of them "as if they are weighing melons" while women are addressing the House. There was "mocking laughter" during her maiden speech.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, says that some male MPs giggle when the House is discussing issues related to women's health. Maria Eagle, the newly elected Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, says the behaviour of Tory men can be "shocking" — adding that she will give as good as she gets.

But Ann Widdecombe, Tory MP for Maidstone and The Weald, said the Labour women were imagining things. "I think this is just the whingeing feminism of the Nineties instead of the go-getting feminism of the Seventies.

"There is absolutely no sexism whatever in the House of Commons. I have never noticed any on either side. It is almost as if some women MPs coming in want to make a cause out of it. They expect it and look for it and find it where it isn't," the former Prisons Minister said.

Widdecombe: said there was no sexism in House

Edwina Currie, who lost Derbyshire South for the Conservatives on May 1, acknowledged that men could behave badly in the chamber but accused Labour women of being "limp" and "naive".

"What the men are trying to do is to put them down. They will use any means necessary, to which my reaction is — you have to fight back. What you don't do is burst into tears or appeal for help to the Speaker, because that rises to the bait." Labour men were as guilty as the Tories, she said, but their sexist behaviour might not be seen by women speaking from Labour's side of the House. Mrs Currie's advice was to hit back "below the belt".

Angela Browning, Conservative MP for Tiverton and Honiton, claimed that many Labour women had had things relatively easy before entering the Commons. "It's a result of having people from shortlists for women only, who weren't prepared for parliamentary life. They ought to put up and shut up."

Mrs Browning, formerly a junior Agriculture Minister, conceded that some of the heckling from men was aimed specifically at women. "But it can be a bit of a hothouse in there and I don't think that women do their cause any good if they are trying to differentiate. I have heard some men get barracked quite nastily in the House."

Caroline Spelman, Tory MP for Meriden, said Labour women had found it harder to make their mark because there were so many of them.

Cheryl Gillan, Tory MP for Chesham and Amersham, said that the Labour women were "rather like spoilt children if they expect not to get the same treatment as other colleagues get". Male MPs also had to endure heckling about their physical appearance, she said; Ian McCartney, the short and rather round Trade and Industry Minister, faced shouts of "teletubby" whenever he rose to the Dispatch Box.

Paul Yaxon of the otter rescue fund at Eilean Ban

A bright future for otters at risk in Scotland

By Philip Delves Broughton

A young otter called Tuker, released back into the wild after it was rescued

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

TOWERING over the small island of Eilean Ban is the Skye Bridge, linking the mainland to the Isle of Skye. The island was used as a prop for the building of the bridge. This brush with advanced engineering was, however, a blip in the history of an island that was once home to Gavin Maxwell, author of *Ring of Bright Water*, and will now become a wildlife sanctuary for otters, thanks to the work of the local community and the Born Free Foundation.

Since the advent of the car, the otters of the Highlands and Islands have had a hard time. Hundreds are run over each year. It is the work of the International Otter Survival Fund to rescue injured otters and other native wildlife and nurse them back to health before returning them to the wild.

Last year, a baby otter was found on the Isle of Lewis. His mother had been run over soon after giving birth. Lewis, as he was named, was taken to the fund's centre on Skye. He was reared in the centre itself at first, and then in a large, enclosed croft run by the centre, where human contact is kept to a vigilant minimum and animals can live as they would in the wild.

After about a year, Lewis was released into the wild for good. Had he not been found, he would almost certainly have died soon after his mother.

The Born Free Foundation, one of the two charities nominated by *The Times* this year for its Christmas appeal, is a major financial supporter of the work of the fund and will be working with it again on the Eilean Ban project.

Preventive measures implemented by the fund include the imminent installation of reflectors on roads at the main otter crossing points. They are also looking for potential sponsors for a fully fitted ambulance to rescue injured animals.

Money is required for the development of Eilean Ban as a sanctuary for the native wildlife. The Scottish Office has already made the buildings on the island windproof and watertight. The Born Free Foundation's Brightwater Appeal complements work being done by the residents of Skye and fishing villages on the mainland, such as Kyle, to develop Eilean Ban. There are further plans to build an interpretive centre on Skye to explain the history of the island and its wildlife.

Caroline Robson, who runs the foundation's otter projects says: "Eilean Ban is a great opportunity for the wildlife of the area, otters and every other sort of animal."

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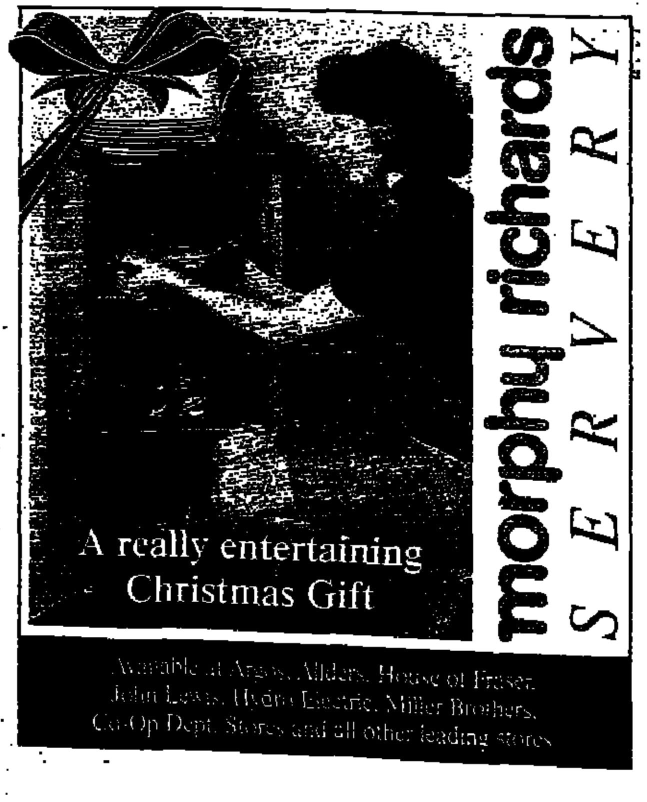

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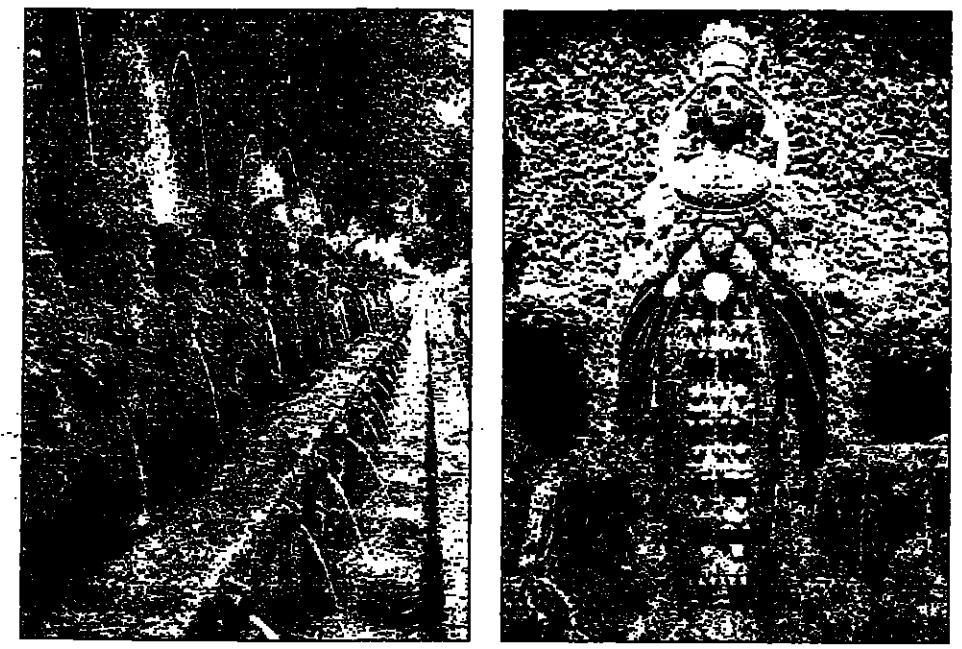
Borgia's fountains flow with poison

Water made Tivoli great, and now water could destroy it, reports

Richard Owen



In the garden's heyday the fountains imitated birdsong and musical instruments

THE spectacular water gardens of the 16th-century Villa D'Este — one of the sights of Italy since the days of the Grand Tour — are threatened with closure because the villa's famous fountains, ponds and tumbling cascades are infected with salmonella bacteria. Local health officials say the "poisoned fountains" pose a danger to visitors through "aerial contamination".

Tivoli, perched on a hill 20 miles from Rome, has been a favoured resort for the rich and powerful since ancient Roman times, when it was admired — ironically — for its "healthy properties". Tourists still flock to the ruins of Hadrian's Villa at the foot of the hill, built by the Emperor Hadrian in the 2nd century AD. But for many the glory of Tivoli is the Villa D'Este, built by Pirro Ligorio for Cardinal Ippolito D'Este, the son of Lucrezia Borgia, in 1555.

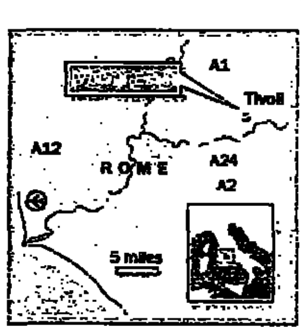
Inspired by formal gardens at Hadrian's Villa (which he had helped to excavate), Ligorio channeled the waterfalls which pour down the side of the hill at Tivoli into an artfully arranged symmetrical garden of grottoes, statues, vistas and ornate monumental fountains, designed as a breathtaking approach to the villa at the top.

John Evelyn, the 17th-century diarist, was enchanted (and irritated) by ingenious fountains designed to imitate organ sounds or the call of birds, and by "surprise fountains" which drenched unwary visitors when they sat or stepped on hidden mechanisms. But the mechanisms have rusted or disintegrated, the moss-covered fountains no longer play music, and the classical and mythical sculptures have worn away. Above all, newly erected notices at the entrance warn visitors that "for health reasons the water pressure in the fountains has been reduced".

The ponds and cascades are cordoned off by metal crash barriers, and signs advise tourists not to "drink, wash in, or come into contact with the water in any way whatever".

Local officials say the water contamination first came to light as long ago as 1990 when they discovered, after a campaign by environmentalists, that the waters taken from a bend in the local river, which feeds the villa garden, were polluted. Although Tivoli advertises itself as a "City of Art", its hinterland is a landscape of travertine marble quarries and light industry. The limestone riverbed, one health official said, "concealed poisons no less treacherous than those used by Lucrezia Borgia to deal with her rivals".

The discovery led to a series of fruitless investigations by the local council, which allowed the villa and gardens to fall into disrepair. Tourist officials say there were nearly a million visitors a year to Tivoli in the 1980s, but the figure has dropped steadily.



This month the Ministry of Health stepped in, telling Tivoli officials that its analysis of the Villa D'Este waters had revealed the presence of salmonella bacteria. The once elegant villa, once a magnet for artists, composers and high society, is also in a state of decay, its empty, echoing and unheated frescoed rooms disfigured by mould, damp patches and encrustations of salt and minerals.

"Water shaped the Villa D'Este and formed its lifeblood, but is now killing it," said *Il Messaggero*, the Rome daily. "The garden is full of germ-ridden vapour."

Pio Baldi, the recently appointed Superintendent of Arts for Tivoli, said a radical restoration programme was needed at an estimated cost of £20 million and he appealed for government help.

Giovanni Hermanin, the former Green activist who first drew attention to the contamination and is now the chief regional environmental officer, said he believed he had traced the problem to waste outlets and drains emptying into the river from the local hospital. "The Villa D'Este is a monument of universal importance, and it is intolerable that this should have dragged on to the point of disaster," Signor Hermanin said.

Sandro Gallotti, the recently elected mayor, said he was determined to restore the villa to its former glory, with the water purified, night-time illumination reinstalled, and a new visitors' café with indoor waterfalls "echoing the cascades in the gardens outside".

WORLD PICTURES

Tourists came in thousands but the Villa D'Este is crumbling and visitors are warned against dangerous waters

WATER PERILS

Although the Villa D'Este's famous fountains and waterfalls have been railed off, Dr Geoffrey Ridgeway, consultant bacteriologist at University College Hospital, London, would not be worried about inhaling the spray from its contaminated water, unless he were suffering from respiratory problems, was immunocompromised or was otherwise debilitated. Dr Ridgeway would, of course, be careful to wash his hands before enjoying his next sandwich.

Only a few years ago was it realised that invisible, or near invisible, spray thrown up by fountains, or splashing from cascades, could result in the inhalation of disease-spreading organisms. The water may be contaminated at source, as in the Villa D'Este, or later in the fountain's cisterns by rats, or, in the case of salmonella, by birds.

In health clubs the communal whirlpool has been proved to be a source of infections after spray inhalation. Dr Ridgeway says it was demonstrated that many of these infections were as a result of water being splashed off parts of the body regularly contaminated by organisms of the *Pseudomonas* group of bacteria.

Pseudomonas, which is the cause of secondary infections in hospital wounds and hence might have contaminated the Villa D'Este's water supply, can be found living harmlessly on the skin in the armpits and around the anogenital areas. Pseudomonal infections are more easily spread by spray than salmonella.

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Christiane Amanpour and Jamie Rubin, who have become Washington's latest "power couple"

Romance brings echo of Camelot to news coverage

HE IS the tall, dark, handsome diplomat who is the voice of the American Government. She is a hard-bitten war reporter who is America's best known foreign correspondent. They share a passion for Bosnia. They fall in love. No, it is not the script of Harrison Ford's planned film on Bosnia (in which Ford will play a gun-running mercenary who falls for a Bosnian woman). It is the real-life romance of Jamie Rubin, State Department spokesman, and Christiane Amanpour, CNN's star correspondent — who have become America's newest "power couple".

There is something Kennedyesque about the pairing, a hint of the heady days of Camelot. Christiane actually went to school with John F. Kennedy Jr, and Jamie has the same rugged good looks as the late President's son.

Unlike JFK Jr and his wife, Carolyn Bessette, however, these two are not just famous for being famous. Neither needs much publicity. The globe-trotting Christiane, now based in London when she is not in Iran or Bosnia or being detained by the Taleban in Afghanistan, has enough "face-time" on CNN to sate even the most insecure reporter.

Jamie, known for his snarling delivery of US foreign policy at the State Department's midday briefings in Washington, is one of the most quoted men alive.

Plastic wife turns into Catwoman

JAMES BONE'S
NEW YORK

REVELATIONS about the plastic surgery inflicted on the art-dealing Wildenstein clan have raised eyebrows and even put some noses out of joint. Alec Wildenstein, the son of the legendary "Monsieur Daniel", who owns art galleries, race-horses and property around the world, said this week that his estranged wife, Jocelyne, went under the knife because she wanted to "look like a cat".

Describing her as obsessed, he said she was "constantly remodelling, like you remodel an apartment". Jocelyn, whose unnaturally sculpted face has earned her the sobriquet "The Bride of Wildenstein", countered by disclosing that she had compiled a list of all the cosmetic surgery performed on family members over the years and "I am not in the big number as far as operations".

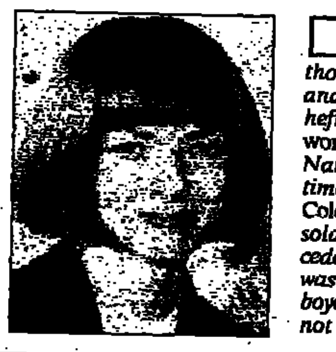
Caught in the crossfire is the family's cosmetic surgeon, Dr Richard Coburn, a specialist with offices just off the stretch of upper Park Avenue known as "Plastic Surgery Row". Apparently red-faced, Dr Coburn ducked my calls. So I consulted an eminent colleague about Mrs Wildenstein's facial work. Dr Victor Rosenberg, the director of cosmetic surgery at New York University Downtown Hospital, estimated that Jocelyne must have had hours of surgery over the years to achieve her exotic look.

"The way I see it she has had a few face-lifts, she has had her lips made larger, she has something done to her eyes where they have become more almond-shaped and slant up and out, a forehead lift, and she may have cheek-bone implants," he said. "And I don't know what she has had done to her body." Having met her at a restaurant, Dr Rosenberg thinks that photographs do not show her at her best. But he says the bottom line is that she must be a satisfied customer because she kept coming back for more. "She is plastic," he said.

The public airing of all this dirty linen came in *New York* magazine as the couple waged war in their acrimonious divorce. Their failing marriage has been big news in the Big Apple ever since Jocelyne found Alec in their Upper East Side townhouse with a teenage Russian mistress and he pulled a semi-automatic weapon on her.

It all brings to mind the doctor's advice to the pampered movie star played by Goldie Hawn in *The First Wives Club*: "If I give you any more collagen, you'll be able to blink your lips."

☐ *It is time for the ladies-who-lunch to get the mink out of storage, and for anti-fur protesters to hit the streets. Two young women, wearing animal ears and tails and little else, took their protest to the ice-rink at the Rockefeller Centre. Protesters have been daubing buildings in red paint and the home of Anna Wintour, right, had red paw prints daubed up the front steps. Anti-fur campaigners evidently blame the British editor of Vogue for the idea that "Fur is Back".*



☐ *There has been much grumbling about the neglect of those greats of fiction, Don DeLillo and Thomas Pynchon, and their hefty new masterpieces —* Underworld *and* Mason and Dixon. *The National Book Award went to first-time novelist Charles Frazier for* Cold Mountain, *about a Civil War soldier limping home. DeLillo conceded graciously that Frazier's book was good. But Pynchon's publisher boycotted the event as his man was not even shortlisted.*

BOLIVAR ARELLANO

Jocelyne Wildenstein: "not a big number"

Streets ahead in names of shame

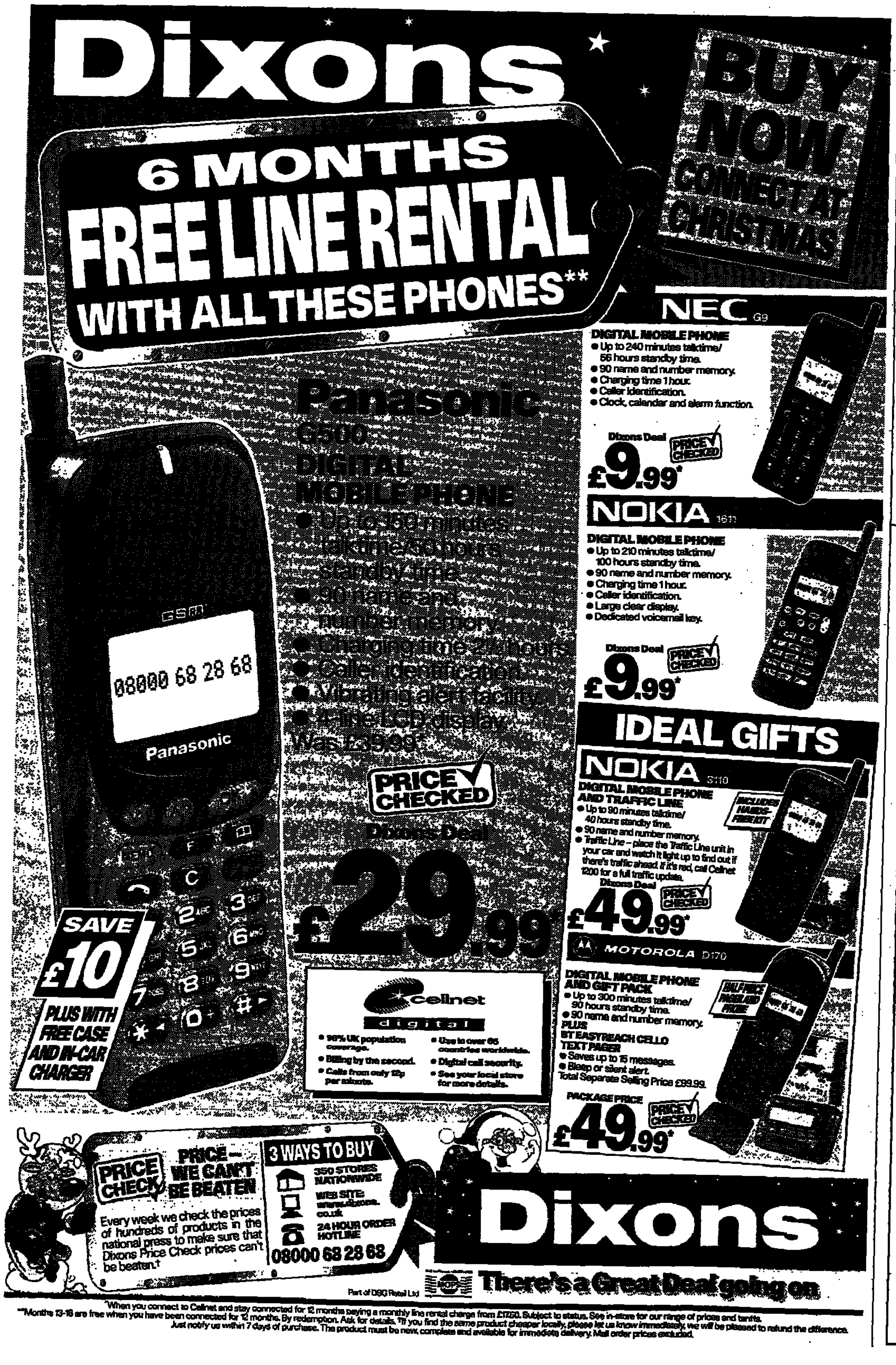
NEW YORK has always been a city-state with its own foreign policy. Any government that angers one of its many ethnic communities is liable to find an embarrassing street name outside its consulate.

The Soviet Union had a road named after Natan Sharansky; the apartheid-era South Africans had "Nelson and Winnie Mandela Corner" (surely time that one was renamed); even the British suffered a junction honouring Joe Doherty, the IRA fugitive.

Nigeria's military regime recently went to court when the city council renamed a road outside its gleaming new consulate "Kudirat Abiola Corner" after the murdered wife of the jailed Chief Moshood Abiola, widely believed to have won the 1993 presidential election. It is probably over-optimistic for Nigeria to think it can get the better of New York. As they say, all politics is local.

☐ In response to viewers' complaints about crime-ridden newscasts, a television station has started a nightly "Good News" slot. The question is whether that makes everything else "Bad News". Probably. News, as John Maynard Keynes said of surprises, is invariably bad.

☐ A "factoid": 46 per cent of US parents say their children prefer their computers to their friends.



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Call to curb wife of Netanyahu

Jerusalem: Israeli opposition politicians vowed yesterday to take action against Sara Netanyahu, the Prime Minister's wife, after an eight-page exposé of her allegedly unbalanced behaviour appeared in *Yediot Aharanot*, the biggest-selling Tel Aviv newspaper (Christopher Walker writes).

Ophir Pines, a Labour backbencher, said he would submit an urgent motion to the Knesset agenda stating: "The effect of Mrs Netanyahu's extraordinary behaviour on her husband's functioning should be checked." Another Labour MP, Ephraim Oshaya, proposed the job of Prime Minister's wife should be given official status with defined privileges, so that "we can avoid such scandals".

The article listed claims, mostly by unnamed officials and witnesses, about how the 39-year-old former El Al hostess and third wife of Binyamin Netanyahu had allegedly abused her position and tormented subordinates.

Woman jailed for Cosby blackmail

By James Bone

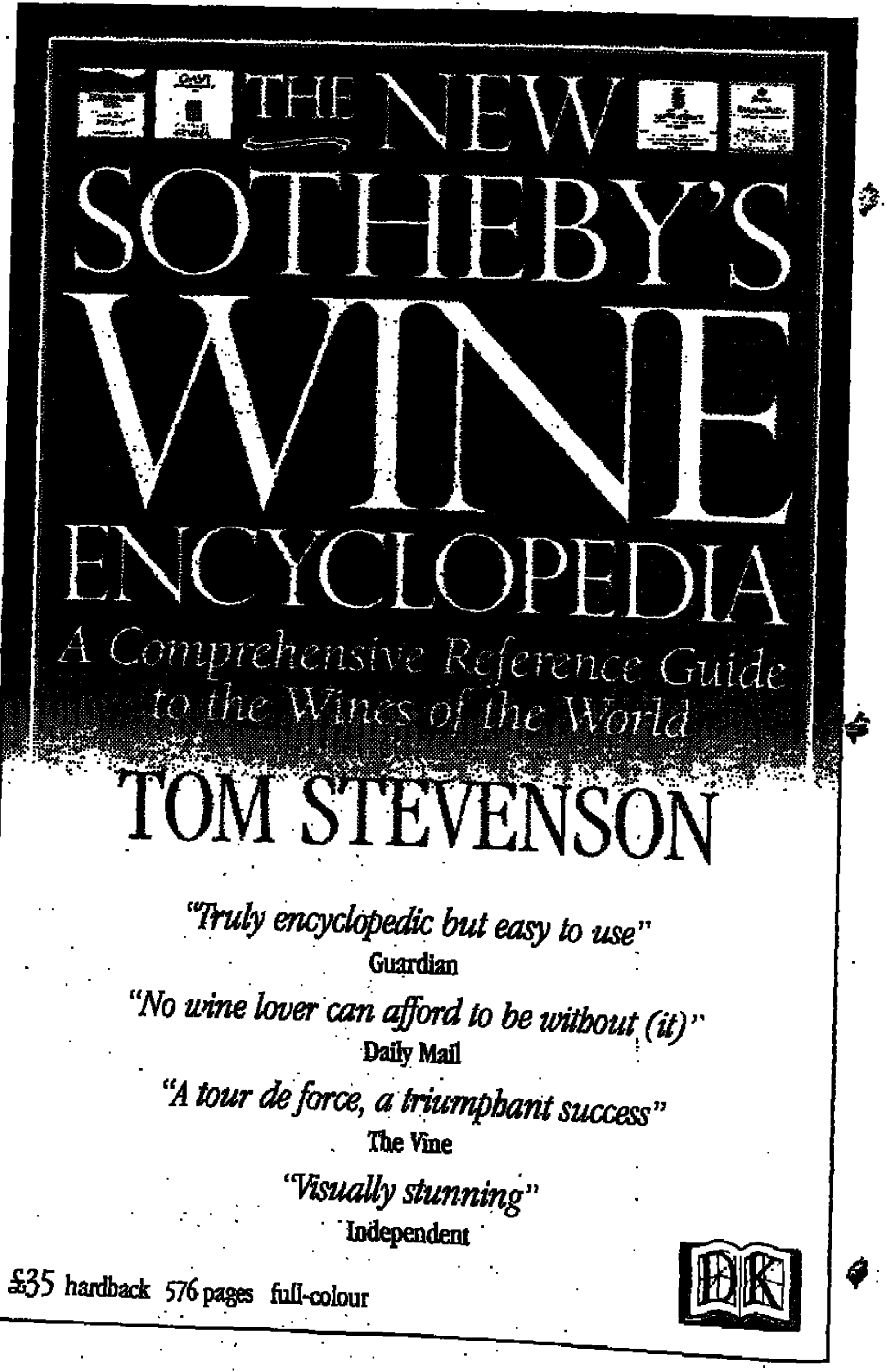
THE woman who tried to blackmail "America's Dad" by claiming to be his illegitimate daughter was sentenced to a stiff jail term yesterday. Autumn Jackson, 23, will serve 26 months for trying to extort $40 million (£24 million) from Bill Cosby, the black billionaire situation comedy star who played the patriarch of the Huxtable family in *The Cosby Show* on television.

Yesterday's sentencing in Manhattan brought an end to a horrific year for Mr Cosby, whose son, Ennis, was murdered in January as he changed a tyre in Los Angeles. The comedian, who is married, admitted that he had once had a "rendezvous" with Ms Jackson's mother, but denied that Ms Jackson was his child. Ms Jackson and two accomplices threatened to leak the story to a tabloid magazine if he did not pay her off.

In a letter asking for leniency, Ms Jackson's lawyer had told the judge that his client was "a far cry from the typical back-alley extortionist". He wrote: "She was born into the secret that would later contribute to her misconduct. As far as she knew, the 'secret' was true, and the truth of that secret gave her some right to support from Mr Cosby." He added: "She now realises, painfully, that she will never have any relationship with the famous man she has always believed to be her father."

Prosecutors said Miss Jackson saw Mr Cosby in the same way that robbers saw banks. They said $40 million was far above any entitlement she could have had, even if she had been his daughter.

Ms Jackson, who has been living with her grandmother in California, recently married Anthony Williams, the man who told the authorities about the extortion plot. She rejected an offer by the man who claims to be her biological father to attend the court to deliver a plea for leniency.



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James Bond falls into the clutches of marketing men's $100m plot

Agent for change: Brosnan and BMW

By Giles Whittell

HIS martinis are still made as they *should* be, but the new 007 wears the wrong watch, drives the wrong car and has lent his serial number to a lipstick company.

A week before the release of the 18th Bond film, Mr Bond is in the midst of an unprecedented marketing blitz paid for to the tune of $100 million by — there is no other way of putting it — his sponsors.

To publicise *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the world's top secret agent has lent his name to more gadgets than Tiger Woods. In doing so he has strayed recklessly from Ian Fleming's legendary blueprint, and lost a good deal of his Englishness. His suits are now from Milan, not Savile Row. His cars and motorcycles are from Germany, not Aston Martin. His watch is still Swiss, but hardly the Rolex that saved his life in *From Russia With Love*.

Worst of all, the most useful gadget given him by the venerable Q is now a Swedish-sounding cellphone that Ian Fleming would barely recognise as a toy.

The branding of Bond has been driven by his studio's bottom line. MGM, whose survival largely depends on the Bond franchise, has converted the spy's unrivalled sex-appeal into licensing, product placement and advertising deals that more than quadruple its own $25 million marketing budget for the new Bond film.

The trend began in *Goldeneye*, Pierce Brosnan's first outing as 007, in which he was seen fleetingly in a new BMW sports car. That brought the company 10,000 advance orders worth some $300 million (£190 million). This time, in return for the right to put Mr Brosnan behind the wheel of its most expensive saloon, the company gave the production ten of them for its car chases and promised a multi-million-dollar advertising campaign to promote the film as well as its vehicles.

There is also a Bond beer, credit card and vodka, all seen in the film and all featuring the film in their own TV commercials. Hitherto such joint ventures were the preserve of children's films and fast food chains. Mr Bond has apparently proved the perfect equivalent for grown-ups, though so far his official make-up line is worn only by his girlfriends.

Simon Barnes, page 22
Bond cars, Go, page 47

Old style: James Bond's Aston Martin

Spielberg saga fails to impress the critics

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

STEVEN SPIELBERG'S magnum opus on slavery opened in America last night after a month of legal controversy to which the director must now add another headache. Critics agree, that, although undeniably important, *Amistad* is not the film it might have been.

The 2½-hour saga tells the true story of a slave ship mutiny that took place off Cuba a century and a half ago. Besides being Mr Spielberg's attempt to pull off a "black *Schindler's List*", it is the first attempt by a major Hollywood director to grapple with the issue that has been called "a hole in America's soul".

Amistad, named after the ship on which it is set, has proved a lightning rod for the powerful emotions that still dominate discussion of slavery in America. Tears reportedly flowed on set as black actors were shackled for filming aboard mock-ups of the slave ship. Last week, the unknown West African actor who plays the mutiny's leader filled the cover of *Newsweek* under the headline: "Should America apologise?" Yet instead of opening to heady talk of Oscars, the film has been overshadowed by a $10 million (£6.1 million) plagiarism lawsuit and a bitter war of words between some of Hollywood's costliest attorneys. Both come at the worst possible time for Dreamworks SKG, the beleaguered young studio co-founded by Mr Spielberg.

The dispute began when Barbara Chase-Riboud, a former friend of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, accused Mr Spielberg and his scriptwriter of stealing large parts of her 1989 novel on the mutiny, *Echo of Lions*. Last week, a judge handed Dreamworks a temporary victory, allowing distribution of the film without a credit for Ms Chase-Riboud. Then came the reviews.

With showy cinematography that fails to compensate for some oddly flat dialogue, the $75 million *Amistad* falls between the high seriousness of *Schindler's List* and the theme-park ride of *Jurassic Park*. The film "shows that Spielberg's system is not working", the *Los Angeles Times* declared. "There's been leakage from the no-brainers to the quality stuff." *The New York Times* complained that *Amistad* has everything except "an Oskar Schindler" — a central character through whom to grasp the actrocity of slavery. Instead it has Matthew McConaughey, a youthful heart-throb, who is mediocre at best in the vital role of a white lawyer who takes up the Africans' cause.

The film's most likely Oscar nominees are Sir Anthony Hopkins as President John Quincy Adams who argued the slaves' case in the US Supreme Court, and Djimon Hounsou, a former fashion model originally from Benin. As the mutineers' leader he manages to humanise a harrowing depiction of the transatlantic "middle passage".

The two characters meet in one of the film's best scenes — yet even here Mr Spielberg is in trouble. Their relationship is one of 42 "striking similarities" Ms Chase-Riboud claims were lifted from her book. Mr Spielberg, the most successful director in history, denies reading *Echo of Lions* even though Kennedy Onassis sent a proof version to his office in the late 1980s.

In an interview with *The Times* during production, the director admitted knowing "a bit about the *Amistad*" before being approached by its credited producer, Debbie Allen. But he added: "It took [Ms Allen's] energy and charisma to get my attention and look her in the eye and say ... 'I'd like to try to tell that story with you'." Mr Spielberg broke his silence on the lawsuit in an affidavit pleading for the film's release not to be blocked. That would have been "a tragedy for our company, but I believe it would also be a serious loss to the American public", he said.

SCOPE FEATURES

Matthew McConaughey in *Amistad*. One reviewer said what the film really needed was an Oskar Schindler

Internet ruling deals blow to Gates empire

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

MICROSOFT, the world's most powerful software company, received an unexpected blow yesterday when a federal judge ordered that it must sell its Internet browser software separately from its Windows operating system to prevent it building a monopoly of Web access programmes.

The temporary injunction by the Washington judge in the Justice Department's antitrust suit against Bill Gates's company may jeopardise the release of Windows 98, scheduled for spring. On a visit to Beijing, Mr Gates would not comment on the ruling but insisted that Microsoft's dominance was based on technical superiority.

Microsoft, which promised that its Internet browser would be an integral part of Windows 98, will now be banned from compelling computer makers to install the software along with Windows 98. Versions of Windows are installed as the operating system for almost all new personal computers worldwide. Microsoft has imposed this "bundling" agreement on computer makers for about two years.

Stock market analysts said yesterday that, on its own, the ruling was not a serious threat to Microsoft, because computer makers could still voluntarily sell the browser along with Windows. But, if reinforced by later judgments, it might prove a real impediment. The judgment, which will be re-examined next year in the light of more evidence, is intended to be a holding measure to prevent Microsoft clinching a monopoly of the browser market before the final judgment is delivered.

Microsoft, after a decade of astounding success, was slow to see the Internet's potential and is accused of using its software dominance to claw its way into a monopoly position in Internet technology.

In its suit, filed on October 20, the Justice Department alleged that Microsoft's tactics in marketing its browser violated a 1995 antitrust settlement. It asked for a fine of $1 million (£625,000) a day if the company failed to change its policy.

Microsoft executives called Thursday's ruling "a mixed decision", and were pleased that Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson had not ruled the company to be in contempt of the 1995 settlement.

Joel Klein, the Assistant Attorney-General, said after the ruling: "Starting tomorrow, choice will be restored to the public."

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HEAR A DEMO AND HEAR THE DIFFERENCE

Carlos plays to the gallery at murder trial

The Jackal opens his own defence in Paris, watched by **Ben Macintyre**

THE trial of *Carlos the* Jackal opened in Paris yesterday with a passionate and sometimes baffling defence speech from the accused terrorist mastermind, in which he described himself as "a professional revolutionary in the old Leninist tradition".

The Venezuelan-born Carlos, 48, whose real name is Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, is on trial for the murders of two French secret service agents *and their Lebanese informer* in 1975, for which he was convicted in absentia in 1992.

In his first public appearance, the flamboyant self-styled revolutionary took every opportunity to play to the gallery, peering over his gold-rimmed spectacles, wagging his finger at the court and *grinning at the packed public* benches. In a long, occasionally comic and often barely comprehensible declaration delivered in accented French, *Carlos challenged the jurisdic*tion of the French court and accused civil plaintiffs of being manipulated by Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

Asked to state his address, the man linked to many of the worst terrorist attacks of the Cold War replied: "The world is my domain. My last address was in Khartoum, *Sudan.*" Claiming that he had been illegally kidnapped by French *agents* in Sudan in 1994, he said: "I deny the right of French judges to try me because I am in France illegally." Wearing a beige safari *jacket and silk cravat — and* looking more like a satisfied cat than a feared jackal — Carlos appeared almost impossibly relaxed for a man *facing life imprisonment if* convicted.

"The understandable anguish of the victims' families is being manipulated ... they *are being fooled by the actions* of Mossad with the connivance of the French police authorities," the pro-Palestinian former guerrilla pro*claimed. Carlos went on to* describe SOS Attentats, the association for terrorism victims representing civil plaintiffs in the case, as a "Zionist, *revisionist, racist*" organisation. After three years spent *in solitary confinement.* Carlos was clearly enjoying the opportunity to declaim before a captive audience, and his relish in the sound of his own voice reached the point where the judge, Yves Corneloup, first instructed him to speak more slowly and then admonished him for criticising prosecution lawyers, saying he must respect the solemnity of the court.

Carlos seemed anything but *solemn during jury selection.* In line with his reputation as a terrorist Don Juan, he turned a dazzling smile on every potential female juror, and *appeared to reject those who* declined to catch his eye, prompting laughter in court. The accused killer, describing himself as "a militant for the *Palestinian cause*", *has insist*ed on acting as his own chief defence lawyer, despite his limited grasp of French.

At one point in the proceed*ings, Carlos's languid pose* became too much for the judge, who told him not to put his feet on a chair in the dock.

Prosecution lawyers say the *case against Carlos is water*tight, since police discovered his fingerprints on the murder weapon and the accused admitted to the murders in a newspaper interview. The trial is expected to last a week.

AP

Carlos the Jackal in a photograph French police found in the murder flat in 1975

Radio says tired Yeltsin suffered 'severe brain spasm'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

THE Kremlin was last night at pains to dismiss fresh reports suggesting that President Yeltsin's disappearance from public view was due to more serious medical complications than simply a cold.

As Russia celebrated Constitution Day, and Mr Yeltsin's place as head of state was taken by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, a Moscow radio station reported that the Russian leader had suffered "a severe brain spasm" caused by exhaustion. "Boris Yeltsin had a severe spasm of the blood vessels in the brain, linked to sharp weather fluctuations and his general fatigue and overwork," said a report on *Ekho Moskvy*, the capital's best radio news station.

The report, quoting well-placed medical sources, added that he was recuperating and that his condition was *improving. Medical experts said* that "brain spasms" were linked to migraines and often affected elderly people who had high blood pressure. They are not connected to strokes or blood clots.

The claims could help to explain why the Kremlin leader looked so confused and behaved in such an erratic manner during his visit to Sweden last week, *the* latest in a series of long and exhausting trips made by the 66-year-old leader.

Added to separate reports that the latest illness is related to Mr Yeltsin's *previous heart problems, there is a* growing air of crisis around the Kremlin, which in the past has routinely covered up the real state of health of the country's leaders. A Kremlin spokesman denied the latest allegations and insisted that the Russian leader's temperature was normal, that Mr Yeltsin had done some paperwork and was already *recovering from a simple bout of* influenza.

"If his temperature remains stable, he may resume walks in the fresh air on Saturday and Sunday," said a *Kremlin statement* released after doctors had examined him at the presidential sanatorium in Barvikha, outside Moscow. The upbeat assessment was tempered by *the fact that Mr Yeltsin's plans to* take part in tomorrow's local government elections in Moscow have had to be curtailed. Instead of travelling a short distance to the local polling *station, he will cast his ballot in a* mobile voting box brought to his residence.

In the public's eyes, the only way that rumours can be dispelled is by the appearance of *President Yeltsin* in public or on television to provide concrete proof that he is making a real recovery.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Filipino MP gets life for child rape

Manila: A court has sentenced Romeo Jalosjos, a Philippines congressman, to life imprisonment for raping *an 11-year-old* girl (Abby Tan writes). The opposition politician was found guilty of two counts of rape and six counts of indecent assault against a minor. The judge dismissed six other charges of *sexual assault. Jalosjos,* 57, will serve a mandatory 40 years.

Jalosjos stood motionless in court wearing dark glasses as the clerk read the verdict, which was greeted by wild cheering and applause from women's groups lobbying for the protection of women and children. Prosecution lawyers said: "The verdict was a vindication of *all sexually abused* children in the Philippines." The Jalosjos trial was a test case for the Philippines' tough new laws on sex crimes.

Ex-bishop condemns Pope

Vienna: In a letter to senior Roman Catholic officials Reinhold Stecher, 75, a former Bishop of Innsbruck in Austria, accused the Vatican of being preoccupied with power and *suggested the Pope was straying from* Christ's teachings. The letter, obtained by Austrian state television ORF, also attacked the way the hierarchy looked down on church members and its attitude to priests who married. "Is it not a bigger sin not to forgive than to break the vow of celibacy?" the former bishop wrote. *(Reuters)*

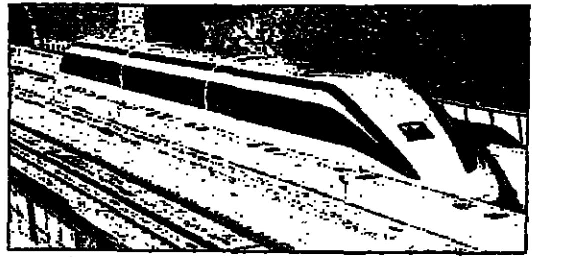
Award for nanny's judge

East Bridgewater, Massachusetts: Judge Hiller Zobel, who presided over the trial of Louise Woodward, the British au pair, has been recognised for courage in deciding to set the 19-year-old free. Judge Zobel, who reduced Miss Woodward's second-degree murder conviction to involuntary manslaughter, received the seventh annual Brass Gavel Award from the Plymouth County Bar Association. "Judging is a funny business," he said. *(AP)*

More avian flu cases feared

Hong Kong: Three more suspected cases of an avian flu that killed two people in Hong Kong were reported, bringing the number of confirmed or suspected cases of the rare virus to seven. Three hospitals in different parts of the territory reported a suspected case of the influenza H5N1 infection, but none has been confirmed by laboratory tests. One of the suspected victims is in a critical condition. *(AP)*

Levitating train sets record



Tokyo: The Japanese maglev (magnetically levitated) train that set world speed records yesterday by reaching 531 kph (329.96 mph) in both manned and unmanned runs, according to the train's developer. The runs, in Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, broke the previous unmanned record of 517 kph and manned record of 503 kph. *(AP)*

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Failed fortunes force Thai economy drive

James Pringle sees how Bangkok is adapting to the harsh and novel realities of boom-to-bust

THAKSINA KHAIKAEW

A Buddhist monk examines a bargain Mercedes at the weekly "market of the formerly rich" in Bangkok

THAI matrons are leasing out their Gucci handbags and Versace outfits and shoes for the evening as formerly prosperous Thais learn to live with the spectacular bursting of the country's bubble economy.

As its currency, the baht, sank to new lows yesterday, the new Prime Minister, Chuan Leekpai, spoke of the possibility of "millions of newly unemployed people".

The suicide rate is up, prostitution, which had been declining, is growing again, and crime has also increased.

Yet some are coping. One cheery, laid-off broker who used to handle stock and property worth millions has opened a sandwich stall in a hospital, while a former real estate dealer in a property market where luxury flats and villas stand empty has started a car-wash.

A former banker is selling a line of T-shirts carrying the melancholy message: "I used to be rich."

The Thai tiger economy grew 8 per cent a year for a decade up to 1996, and some Thais thought the good times would go on for ever. A popular book called *Thailand's Boom*, published last year, summed up the former hubris.

"Suddenly Thailand has become one of the world's most dynamic economies," enthuses the blurb on the cover. "How did it happen? Where is it heading?"

The answer is nowhere but down. "You just don't know where the bottom is," said one financial analyst.

Asia's economic meltdown started here. The flotation of the Thai currency in July set off a chain reaction from Bangkok to Jakarta to Seoul, and required a $17 billion (£10 billion) emergency bail-out from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in return for fiscal austerity programmes.

Prices are rising for those earning baht salaries — but there are bargains for those with hard currency — companies are closing and hundreds of thousands of people are already out of work. Many are heading home to villages where basic food and goods are cheap.

Some analysts say the Thai economy will not hit bottom until 1999. Senior Western diplomats say that they have been told by government ministers that unrest cannot be ruled out.

"Confidence and optimism are out, and uncertainty and gloom are in," said the Prime Minister, who came to power on November 15 after the collapse of the previous government.

Mr Chuan's new Government, an eight-party coalition, is considered good news after its two incompetent predecessors. Mr Chuan, who has held the post before, is highly rated as thoughtful and honest, if in the past slow to act.

But diplomats say Mr Chuan did act decisively this week when, taking a hard line on troubled financial institutions which overextended themselves in loans, notably for property, he said only two of 58 finance firms suspended in mid-year would be allowed to reopen. Analysts had expected up to seven would resume business.

The closures have thrown 6,000 young executives out on the street this week alone, and many are trying to sell their mobile telephones. Thailand was the world's largest consumer of 12-year-old premium Scotch, but now a cheap local whisky called "Black Cat" is popular.

"Young Thais coming out of schools and colleges will not be able to find good jobs," said a European envoy. "At the same time, the whole support industry for the chattering middle classes is in trouble."

Until recently, Thailand ranked as the seventh biggest consumer of Mercedes cars in the world. But a Mercedes dealer here says that sales have fallen dramatically.

Wasun Panon, president of Benz Thonglor, another big Mercedes dealer, has managed to capitalise on the market meltdown and sells used cars and luxuries such as Rolex watches at his popular "market for the formerly rich" each weekend.

A Bangkok travel agent says that up-country resorts are full of Thai visitors who would normally have gone abroad, but with the Thai baht having fallen in a few months from 24 to the US dollar to yesterday's 44 baht, a foreign holiday is out of the question.

Analysts say one of the problems was that Thailand never went high-tech, but concentrated on producing low-tech toys, textiles and goods now made cheaper in China. "Everyone tried to fill their pockets and did not go upscale," said one.

Meanwhile, markets are saturated with supplies of everything from cement to steel to semi-conductors.

Hopes dashed, page 27

Marcos: court returned £100 million to Manila

Banks told to release Marcos millions

From Peter Capella in Geneva

SWITZERLAND'S Supreme Court has settled an 11-year legal battle by ordering Swiss banks to return assets of Ferdinand Marcos, the late Philippines President, to Manila.

In a landmark 50-page ruling, the court said it was against Switzerland's national interests to become a refuge for capital flight and for funds of criminal origin. It is the first clear signal that Swiss secrecy laws will no longer provide protection for assets of foreign dictators.

The Justice Ministry said that it could speed up attempts by Pakistan to seize SwFr20 million (£9 million) held by the family of Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister. The Democratic Republic of Congo is also trying to recover millions of pounds believed to have been deposited the late President Mobutu.

The Marcos judgment, covering $100 million of his fortune in Switzerland, sets a precedent for the remaining $400 million.

Fears for Suharto as doctors bar travel

Jakarta: Fears about the health of Indonesia's President Suharto reached new heights yesterday after doctors reversed an earlier decision and told the 76-year-old leader not to attend a regional summit in Malaysia.

Mr Suharto, who has ruled Indonesia since 1966, was described as only resting by a government spokesman. Other sources, however, said he had suffered a mild stroke and that his kidneys had almost ceased functioning. A team of ten doctors is on 24-hour call.

"The President has been rejuvenated by his rest . . . but this fitness needs to be maintained. If the President makes a long-distance trip, it is feared he will take a long time to recover," a spokesman said.

President Suharto had been seen relaxed and smiling on Indonesian television on Thursday in his first public appearance since rumours about his health surfaced. He is the world's second longest serving ruler after Fidel Castro of Cuba, and fell ill on returning from a two-week, three-continent tour last month. The spokesman added that Mr Suharto had also cancelled a visit to his wife's grave in central Java.

News of the cancelled foreign tour caused the currency and stocks to fall sharply. The Jakarta Composite Index fell 30.26 points, or 7.64 per cent, to a 52-month closing low of 365.85, down more than 50 per cent from its peak of 742.95 in early July.

Television stations interrupted their programmes to show a meeting between Mr Suharto and Ali Alatas, Indonesia's Foreign Minister. The head of state appeared weak and puffy-eyed.

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Children must have chances to overcome our worst fears

Libby Purves looks back on a week when the runaways were big news

NOT everyone agrees with the robust morality of Anne Atkins, but she has abundant courage. As an agony aunt, she has frequently said that children should not be confined and overprotected; during the dreadful hours this week when her own 12-year-old was missing, she stuck to her guns. Even with a police search in progress, she told reporters: "I firmly believe we should not deny children freedom. I shall go on believing in that, even if we find something awful has happened to her."

Given the prevailing terror of middle-class parents about murderers, molesters and drug barons, that is brave. But Mrs Atkins has been criticised for having what her neighbours refer to as "free-range children". Today it is far easier to be criticised for giving children independence than for overprotecting them.

The stories of Lara Atkins and other recent runaways sharpen the dilemma over children's freedom. One day, whether early or late, briefly or permanently, they will have to confront the world without us. So when do we let them shop with a friend, walk alone through a town, take public transport unchaperoned? How do we teach them streetwisdom, safe ways of reacting to catcalls and harassment, aggressive beggars and the frankly crazy approaches of wild-eyed citizens wishing to warn them about the arrival of Satan on a spaceship? I was glad to be only a few paces behind my young daughter in Lowestoft for that particular one, but admired her ability to smile graciously while walking faster.

However insistent we are on driving and policing our children, the runaways remind us that they will eventually go out into the world to try themselves (or to get away from us, or from exams, or a broken heart). Neurotic parents, who indulge their own terrors by refusing their offspring all chance to practice independence, often regret it. Their children either rebel and lead a vivid, dangerous, double life that they dare not discuss, or else grow up stunted, fearful and overdependent. Whether wild or withdrawn, they find the sudden freedom of university baffling and sometimes disastrous.

Where is the balance? Can children themselves help? There is only one fully democratic children's community in England, and that is Summerhill "free" school in Suffolk, run by Zoe Readhead, the daughter of the pioneering A.S. Neill, on his principle of giving children a full voice. They make their own list of "Laws" at a democratic meeting where children can easily outvote teachers, and it occurred to me to consult it.

Ofsted may currently have the knife in Summerhill over educational standards but, when it comes to behaviour, the 60-strong boarding school is observably less anarchic than some comprehensives. The meeting imposes penalties, and sticks to them. On this matter of freedom and school bounds, Mrs Readhead says, the children prove perfectly capable of weighing up danger against freedom. They are "realistic" — which is to say largely unbothered — about the statistically small danger of molesters, but well aware of the real risk of being roughed up by local thugs.

Their laws on freedom are interestingly complex, and adjusted according to the season and the hours of darkness. They have formulated clear views on development and independence: "A 16-year-old can take under-8s down town. A 12 can go alone. A 9 and a 10 can go together. An 8 can go with a 13 . . . two 14s can go to a radius of 50 miles. A 16 can go to a radius of 100 miles." Behaviour is equally circumscribed: within school they run wild, bathe naked and practise woodcraft, but: "No sheath knives down town, no dirty clothes, keep off the railway tracks and building sites."

These details are worth recording because — although Neill's theory of total educational freedom does not match current sensibilities — his faith in children's ability to make sensible rules is apparently justified. But it is hard: it takes discussion. Working parents, stressed and guilty, spend more time on the train and in the office reading newspaper horrors about rare child murders than they ever do in talking relaxedly about the world with their own real children.

We then try to compensate by being dictatorial and controlling the details of our growing children's lives as if they were babies or morons. To relax that control, frankly, feels dangerous.

But never to relax it at all, to coddle and chauffeur and hothouse a potentially capable child, has different dangers. Many would say they are worse ones.

ROB HOWARTH

Zoe Readhead at Summerhill, where children set penalties and stick to them. They are capable of weighing danger against freedom, she says

GROWING PAINS: THE YOUNG ONES WHO PUT THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH WORRY AND JOY

Lost and found: from left, Alistair Tanner, Olga Cardew, Alex Davies and parents, and Lara Atkins were all safe

■ LARA ATKINS, 12, daughter of the agony aunt Anne Atkins was found wandering the streets by a family friend after disappearing for 36 hours from her home in West London. Mrs Atkins and her husband, Shaun, a Church of England vicar, described her daughter as "wacky, intelligent and bouncy" but not streetwise. Mrs Atkins said: "There are better ways to have an adventure. We're so pleased to have her home that we couldn't think of rebuking her. We have a lot of talking and hugging to do." Lara, known as Bink, said: "I'm very sorry that I caused everybody so much worry. I didn't realise there would be so much hassle."

■ Catherine and Gordon Davies found their son Alex, 17, in Leicester Square after a 31-day search. His disappearance was prompted by worries about his mock A levels. He is now back at home in Clevedon, Somerset. Mrs Davies said: "I looked at this bearded face and it wasn't Alex's, then I saw the Tottenham scarf and recognised his eyes. He just said 'Mum'. We collapsed into each other's arms." Alex, who had spent the month sleeping rough, said: "It was a relief when they found me."

■ Olga Cardew and Alistair Tanner, both 17, ran away from their Dorset boarding school, Bryanston, for a romantic trip in Paris. Their parents travelled to France to bring them home. Alistair's father was said to be "angry and disappointed" at his son's behaviour. Clare Price of Bryanston said: "It is not something we would want our pupils to be encouraged to do, but this is not a prison."

■ In contrast, Robert and Margaret Foraker were granted a restraining order to keep their 6ft son, Robert, 19, away from their cottage in Tuddenham St Mary, Suffolk, after weeks of violent outbursts in which he broke a lavatory and shattered a window. He was convicted of eight counts of harassment. His father said: "We do not want sympathy. We want medical help for our son. He has done wrong, but I do not want him in jail any more than I would anyone else's son."

JOANNA BALE

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THE ROBINSON AFFAIR

Taxing times for Paymaster

Geoffrey Robinson: defended by the Prime Minister

HOW HE ROSE TO FAME, FORTUNE AND INFLUENCE

- May 25 1938: born in Sheffield, son of a furniture manufacturer.
- 1958: joins Labour Party while reading modern language at Cambridge.
- 1965-68: Labour Party research assistant.
- 1967: married the Maltese-born opera singer Marie Elena Giorgio.
- 1968-70: appointed senior executive of the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation.
- 1971-72: financial controller at British Leyland.
- 1972-73: managing director of Leyland Innocenti, Milan. Meets the exotic and *sensuous Joska Bourgeois, rich from the* Jaguar franchise she holds for Belgium. They become friends and allies.
- 1973-75: managing director and chief executive of Jaguar Motor Cars Coventry.
- 1976: beats 100 applicants to stand for the safe Labour seat of Coventry North West which he wins in by-election.
- 1978-80: unpaid chief executive of the *Meriden motorcycle co-operative.*
- 1981: Transfer Technology created with help of a loan from Mme Bourgeois. The business transfers ideas from the university to the market. In Coventry, wins votes of confidence against leftwingers.
- 1982: becomes science spokesman.
- 1983: moves to Orchards, a Lutyens mansion near Godalming, Surrey.
- 1983-84: nominates Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley for Labour leadership. Spokesman on regional affairs.
- 1984: fined after sleeping off Christmas party on motorway hard shoulder.
- 1984-86: industry spokesman. Steps down "for personal reasons".
- 1987: pays libel damages for misquoting Norman Tebbit as saying "nobody with a conscience votes Conservative". Becomes director of Central & Sheerwood, industrial conglomerate chaired by Robert Maxwell.
- 1988-89: does not make a single parliamentary speech all session.
- 1989: clings to seat after winning less than 51 per cent in reselection battle.
- 1991: deal effectively merges Transfer Technology with Central & Sheerwood — known as TransTec. Mr Robinson becomes chairman and chief executive.
- 1994: Mme Bourgeois dies at 81 in one *of her Cannes apartments bequeathed to Mr* Robinson. Rescues the *New Statesman* and buys a large chunk of Coventry City Football Club. Stands down as chief executive of TransTec. Institutional shareholders reported to have been unhappy about the shares' performance.
- 1997: appointed Paymaster General.

The man who uses the same gym as the Chancellor is putting the Government under unaccustomed strain, report **Dominic Kennedy** and **Richard Owen** in Rome

Peering through the steam in the sauna at one of Britain's most exclusive health clubs, an observer might spot the pale and fleshy form of the man at the centre of the Government's first major personality crisis.

Typically, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, might be joined by fellow users of the £1,190-a-head Grosvenor House Health Club such as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Michael Barrymore, the television comedian.

In an extraordinary week for his Government, the Prime Minister has chosen to put his reputation on the line to defend on television a multimillionaire member of his Treasury team who happens to have provided the Blair family with a holiday home in the Tuscan sun for the past two summers.

Mr Robinson, 59, is the government minister who announced last week that any life savings over £50,000 would be taxed, yet he has been the master of tax avoidance.

He is a beneficiary of a family trust, worth at least £12 million, in the tax-free haven of Guernsey. The Tuscan home that he lends to the Blairs is assigned to a company rather than any individual, a tax-efficient way of owning property in Italy.

The London penthouse *where he* lives during the week, leased from the Grosvenor House Hotel and offering 24-hour service, is exempt from council tax because the property is registered as hotel accommodation.

It smells of hypocrisy, which the British public — especially Labour voters — hate above all other vices.

As companions in the Park Lane gymnasium, the Paymaster might be thought to have nothing to hide from the puritanical Mr Brown. But does the Chancellor, who is regarded as the Paymaster's most loyal supporter, know everything about the elder man's eventful past?

Tony Blair, who is sure to have sought Mr Brown's advice before going on *Channel 4 News* to defend Mr Robinson on Monday, is facing a crucial test. The Prime Minister took a bold risk when he told millions of viewers: "If people of high calibre are to come into the Government and work as former business people, they bring an enormous amount to the way that Government is run."

Will Mr Blair, like John Major, be crippled by protecting friends long beyond the date when they have lost all political credibility? Or will he ruthlessly sack dead weights, as did Clement Attlee, the Labour Prime Minister who founded the welfare state?

Mr Robinson can console himself by reflecting on the many potential pitfalls he has avoided on his winding path towards the Treasury. He has been in politics so long that his first substantial job was working for Tony Benn in the days when the left-wing standard bearer was part of Labour's mainstream. During the 1960s *Mr Robinson* was appointed to the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, a socialist interventionist body designed to save important national industries from the perceived failures of the market. It played a part in the creation of the British Leyland Motor Company, which owned Jaguar Cars.

A leaflet extolling the health club's benefits

The head of BLMC was Lord Stokes, who received his peerage partly because of the formation of the company. Mr Robinson's role in the creation of BLMC impressed Lord Stokes, who gave him a job. Former colleagues say the young Mr Robinson was favoured by Lord Stokes and had a reputation for being untouchable.

To be appointed as the chairman of Jaguar Cars in his mid-30s in *1974 was an enviable* achievement for Mr Robinson. To leave only 18 months later, with a rumoured payoff of £50,000, was oddly abrupt.

Several Leyland insiders have told *The Times* about those days. Mr Robinson had been chosen to run Innocenti, the car *company's Italian arm* near Milan, where he met Joska Bourgeois, the glamorous and wealthy Belgian divorcée. She is supposed to have set up the Guernsey trust whose multimillion-pound tax-free assets he and his family can now enjoy, while he *proposes to tax ordinary people's* life savings over £50,000.

In his short time as head of Jaguar, Mr Robinson became embroiled in a row over the awarding of a contract for metal to build a huge "paint shop" for cars in Coventry to a firm from the Milan area. *Before long he was gone*, resigning when the company's subsidiaries were merged under the Ryder Plan to save British car manufacturing.

Mr Robinson became a Labour MP in Coventry in 1976. Although colleagues in industry from his early days had assumed he was apolitical, he offended some Leyland managers by becoming too close to the unions. One former director said: "He cosied up to the trade unions. He was really giving them far too much run in the factory operationally."

Mr Robinson's fraternisation with union officials and Labour activists belied his appetite for a lavish lifestyle. While he was always known to enjoy a glass of whisky, today he is *more likely to be seen with a* glass of champagne in his hand.

His most embarrassing drinking episode came in 1984 when he was found guilty of being in charge of a car while unfit by drink. He was discovered by police, fast asleep in the *fully-reclined seat of his* Daimler on the hard shoulder of the M6, Nuneaton magis-

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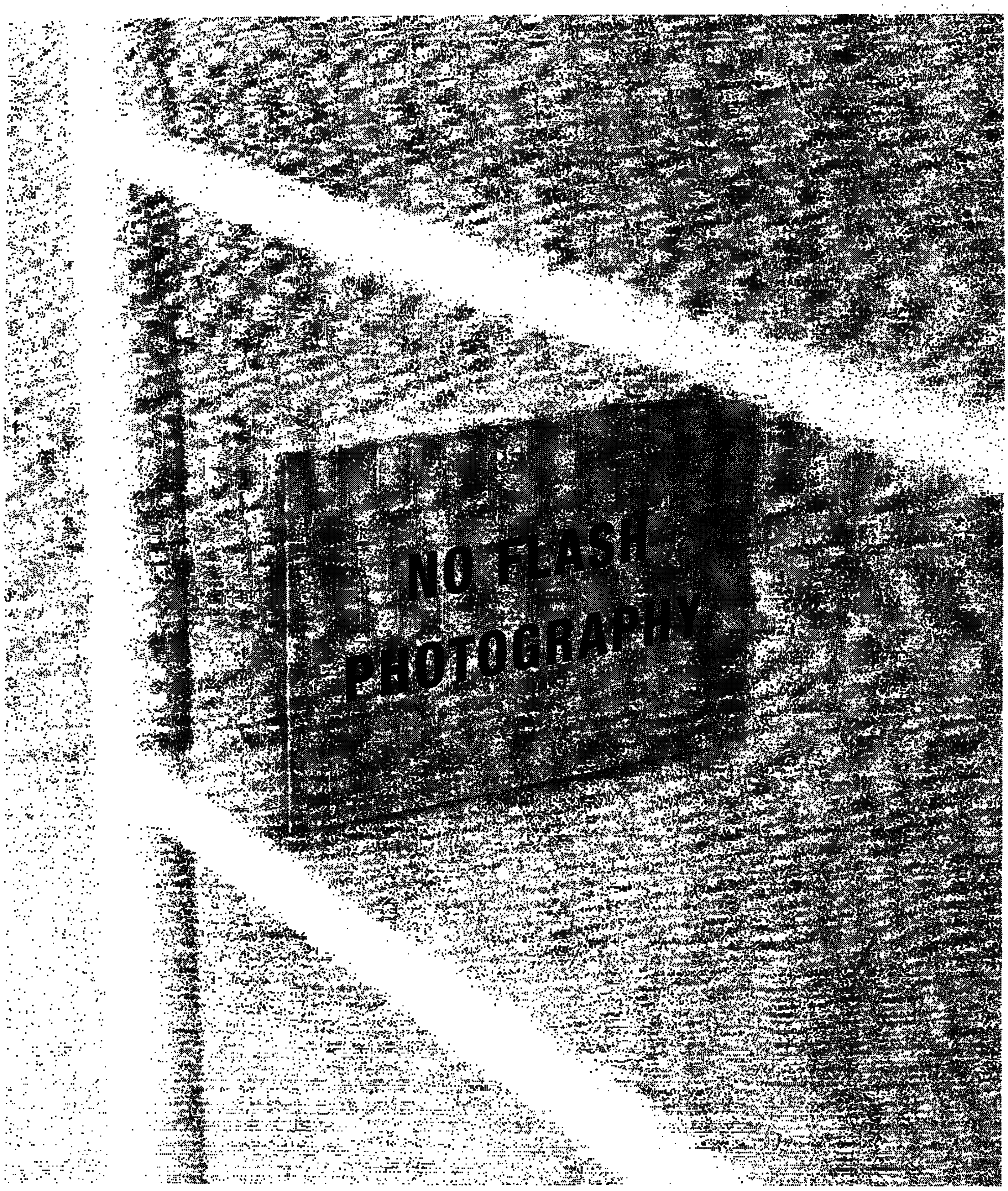

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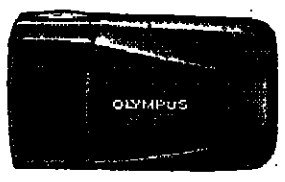
Throughout these various trials and tribulations it's worth remembering that things could be an awful lot worse. You could have bought a compact camera that no-one pays any attention to whatsoever.

Now that really would have been a pity.



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THE ROBINSON AFFAIR

STUART HARRISON

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, arriving at a council function in Coventry yesterday. Labour sources say he has become known as the offshore trust minister

Minister's fate lies in own hands

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE trigger for Geoffrey Robinson's departure from the Government lies in his hands, not Tony Blair's. The Prime Minister has made clear that he is standing four square behind the Paymaster General.

But according to Labour sources, Mr Robinson, whose every move is dogged by questions about his financial arrangements, might reason that he has become too much of an embarrassment to the Government and decide himself to quit. "Blair is not going to ditch him but if this does not die down Robinson may decide of his own accord he has had enough," one Labour source said.

On Monday night Mr Blair was more effusive than he had to be in his praise for the minister in an interview on *Channel 4 News*. But Margaret Thatcher famously described her "brilliant" Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, as "unassailable" — and he was gone within months. John Major's declarations of support for ministers were deemed a sure sign that they would be out within days, as David Mellor, for one, could testify.

The critical point for the Paymaster General will be this evening, when the first editions of *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer* appear. Last week both newspapers reported a series of allegations about Mr Robinson's links to other offshore trusts which he has since denied, threatening to sue both publications.

Friends of Mr Robinson, who concede that his offshore trust is an embarrassment to the Government, know that the next 24 hours are the most crucial period.

If there are any new revelations, which could show that the minister had withheld information about his business arrangements, he could be gone within 24 hours. Both the Prime Minister and the Paymaster General know it.

But Labour sources said last night that the Prime Minister, by going out on a limb on Monday night, had in effect allied himself to Mr Robinson. "The trigger is with Geoffrey. It may be that he will decide he has had enough because wherever he goes, and wherever he speaks, he is asked about the trust. He has become known as the offshore trust minister," a party source said.

Mr Robinson will be spared a Commons interrogation over the trust because he is not scheduled to answer Treasury questions until the middle of next month, by which time Labour strategists hope that the fuss will have died down.

"If the row is still rumbling he may have to think again," said the source.

Continued from facing page

trates were told. He admitted drinking four large sherries during a buffet lunch. After falling asleep at the wheel, he pulled the car straight into the hard shoulder, which he thought was a layby. The bench fined him a total of £420, including penalties for failing to provide a breath test and having no lights, but he kept his licence. Mr Robinson said there would be fewer accidents if people stopped driving when they were too tired to go on.

Now he has two chauffeurs and two Jaguars. But to avoid upstaging ministerial colleagues, he uses a chauffeur-driven government Rover.

Robinson's relationship with Tony Benn and his part in nationalising the motor industry did not save him when the Bennites were on the march in the Eighties. He narrowly managed to defeat a left-wing reselection battle with a vote of just 51 per cent against a local schoolteacher.

One former Labour frontbencher, who knew Mr Robinson when he entered the House of Commons, said that he had failed to fulfil his potential in the early days.

"He was clearly bright and obviously had ability. But he did not push himself. He was well known to Neil Kinnock because of his considerable experience of industry. Many of us thought he had the potential to go on the frontbench but I am not sure if he would have won an election to the Shadow Cabinet."

But Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, who was Prime Minister when Mr Robinson became an MP, has rallied to his defence: "He was clearly one to watch but I could hardly have made a new boy a minister when many other able MPs had been around for a much longer time.

"I would not blame Geoffrey Robinson if he felt fed up by this if, as he says, he is in the clear. Politicians are now subjected to ridiculous levels of scrutiny. The effect of the hounding is to make public-spirited successful people feel disenchanted. The risk is that they will decide that politics is not a career worth pursuing. That would be a terrible shame."

Instead of living in his industrial West Midlands constituency, Mr Robinson divides his time in England between no fewer than three homes designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. For holidays, the MP can turn to properties in Cannes and Tuscany.

To one side of the Tuscan villa is a 45ft swimming pool. In the summer, meals prepared by Paul, Mr Robinson's Galician chef, are served under giant umbrellas on a patio at the back of the house overlooking the valley of olive trees that leads to San Gimignano, known as the "Mediaeval Manhattan" because of its skyline of 13th-century towers.

Did the MP, perhaps over a glass or two of Vernaccia, the fruity local white wine, ever tell Mr Blair the story of how he managed, perfectly legally, to minimise the tax bill for his property in Italy?

According to local public records Mr Robinson bought the estate — a former farm — in July 1992 for £250,000. Estate agents in the area put the estate's current market value at about £3 million. It is registered in nearby Siena in the name of a company called Castelli Mucchio Villa di Robinson Geoffrey and Co, owned by Mr Robinson and his daughter Veronique, who was 22 at the time of the deal. Lawyers say it is common practice in Italy for individuals to set up companies to buy property, since companies pay a lower rate of property tax.

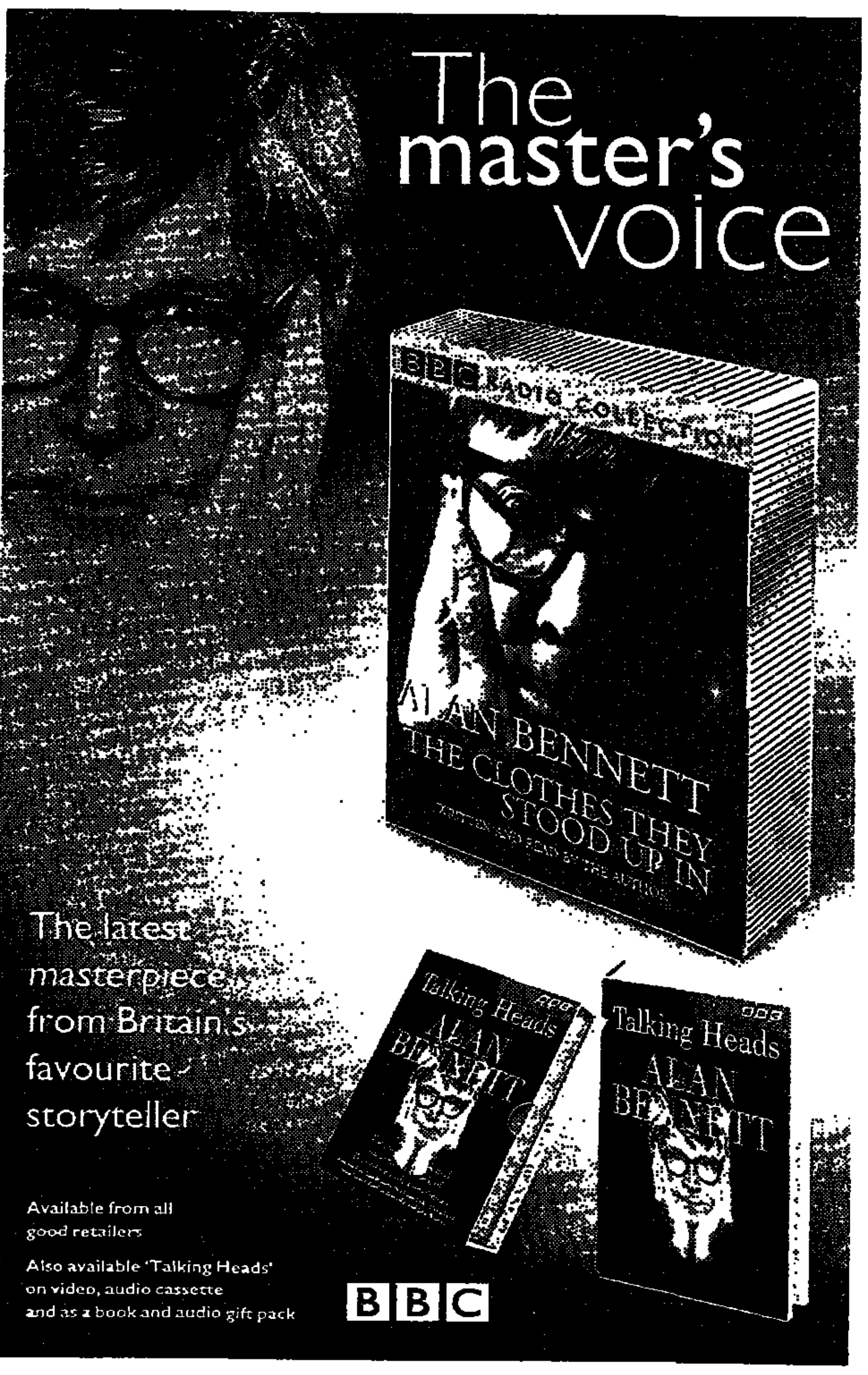
Mr Robinson is close to Franco Nencione, the Mayor of San Gimignano, who belongs to the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), the former Italian Communist Party, which regards itself as the Italian equivalent of the Labour Party. In August Mr Robinson was accused by Tory MPs of feudal bartering when it emerged that he paid local labourers at Mucchio in kind in return for tending his olive groves. But Mr Robinson made clear that he generated no income from the arrangement.

The Paymaster General began this week happily in Gdansk, Poland, where his wife Marie Elena Giorgio was singing opera. He returned to face the music as two Sunday

Mr Robinson with his wife and daughter in 1976 when he was with Jaguar

A man at home anywhere: page 20

Continued on page 20



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THE ROBINSON AFFAIR

Avid collector of rooms at the top

Aficionados of Lutyens's designs approve of minister's patronage

GEOFFREY ROBINSON collects homes like other millionaires acquire paintings, according to Roderick Gradidge, the architect and biographer of Sir Edwin Lutyens.

"It is only proper for a rich man to buy these houses and understand they are not just somewhere to live but are really major works of art in their own right," he says.

The MP fell in love with Lutyens's work when he acquired Orchards, which was designed in 1897 for Lady Chance, a sculptor, and her husband Sir William. It was built near Godalming in the "Surrey vernacular" style, inspired by Lutyens's memories of an old farmhouse in the county of his youth.

Mr Robinson had hoped to create a theatre in the old stables where his wife could sing, but the plan was abandoned.

Orchards is small enough to be a family home and is his main country residence in England. It is worth £1 million.

When Mr Robinson bought Marsh Court, another of the architect's best-loved houses, Lutyens enthusiasts were relieved.

The building, with views of the Test Valley, was designed in the style of a hunting lodge in about 1901 for Herbert Johnson, a stockbroker. It is on a grand scale with 15 main bedrooms, five smaller ones, four cottages, a staff flat, chapel and swimming pool.

Marsh Court had been used as a preparatory school, and admirers of the architect's work were glad that Mr Robinson intended to restore it to its glory as a country mansion. The Victorian Society and the Lutyens Trust are both excited by his plans.

The building had been on the market for £3 million but the MP bought it for £800,000.

Marsh Court is built of a chalk-type stone. Its billiard table is made of chalk, enabling players literally to chalk their cues on it.

Mr Robinson was attracted by the fantastic ballroom, where his wife could sing.

The gardens of both houses are by Gertrude Jekyll, the Victorian gardener who pioneered the fashion for planting natural-looking grounds, using herbaceous borders, instead of formal beds of flowers. The properties are Grade I listed.

To complete his hat-trick of Lutyens properties, Mr Robinson leases a flat on the eighth floor of Grosvenor House in Park Lane, London, overlooking the Serpentine. The hotel's facade was designed by Lutyens in the 1920s. Mr Robinson is a member of the health club situated in the basement.

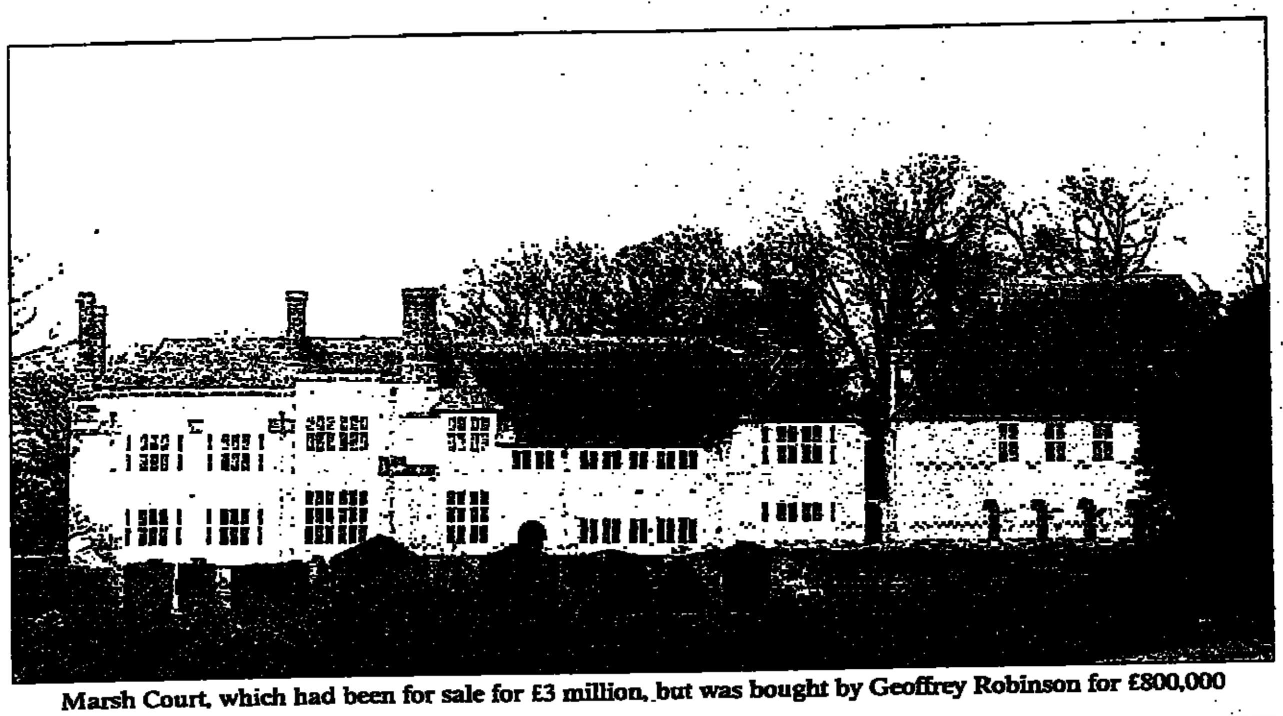
The MP's Tuscan property, where Tony Blair and his family have spent their past two summer holidays, is often described as a villa. However, it is in fact an estate of medieval and Renaissance origins, with its own church and cottages, and with the neoclassical Villa Mucchio at its heart.

According to local public records Mr Robinson bought the estate — a former farm — in July 1992 from a German woman, Claudia Wald, for £250,000. Estate agents in the area have put the estate's current market value at about £3 million.

Mr Robinson has improved the estate, set amid the wooded hills and ravines near the town of San Gimignano. He has restored the three-storey villa, which is approached by a long private drive culminating in a glade of cypresses, oaks and pines. The neat flowerbeds in front of the solid oak double front door contain pomegranate bushes, hydrangeas and white roses. They are tended by two full-time gardeners.

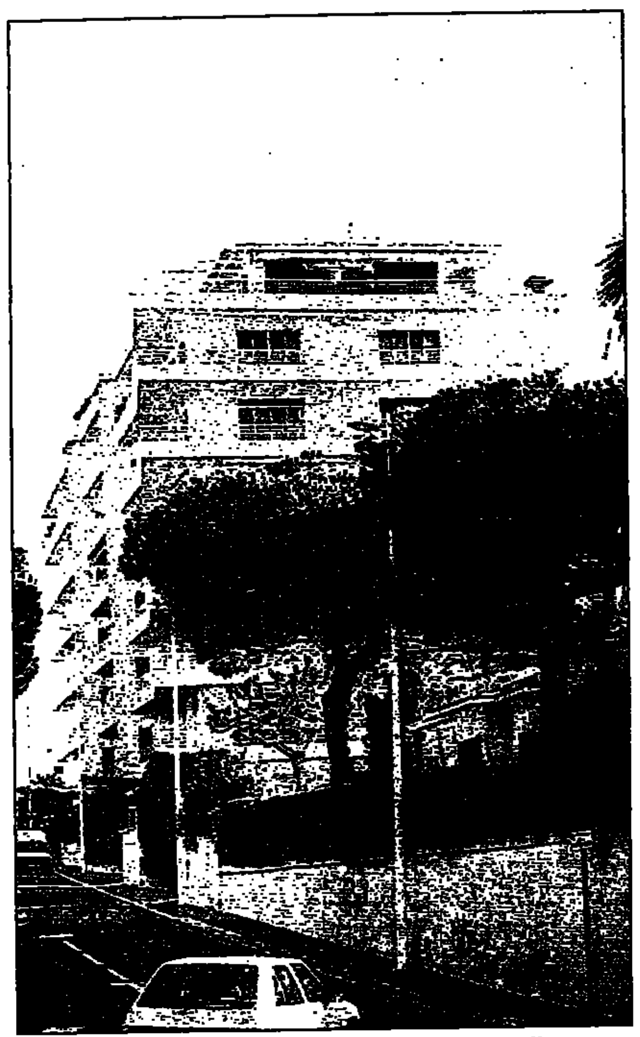
His friend Joska Bourgeois also left him a £1.2 million flat overlooking the Mediterranean on the Avenue Hesperides in Cannes.

The penthouse, on the seventh and top floor, comprises three flats bought by Mme Bourgeois more than 15 years ago and decorated by her in what a neighbour described as a "style befitting her age". Mr Robinson has not touched the decor since.

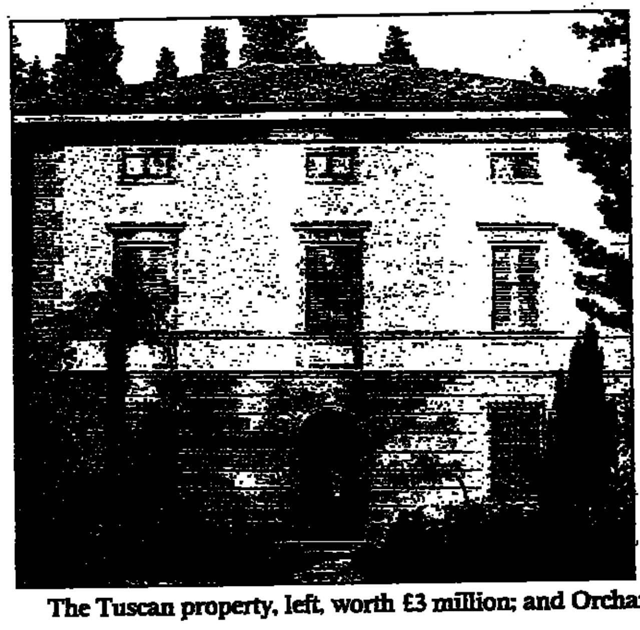


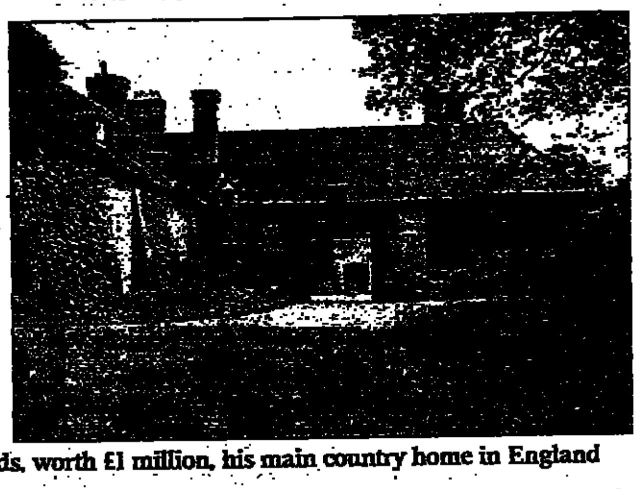
Marsh Court, which had been for sale for £3 million, but was bought by Geoffrey Robinson for £800,000

The leased eighth-floor flat at Grosvenor House



The penthouse in Cannes, worth £1.2 million





The Tuscan property, left, worth £3 million; and Orchards, worth £1 million, his main country home in England

A quiet high life on the Med

FROM ADAM SAGE IN CANNES

LIKE her neighbours in the apartment block in the Avenue des Hesperides, Cannes, Ginette Domini was surprised, amused and mildly envious when Geoffrey Robinson inherited a £1.2 million flat from his Belgian benefactor, Joska Bourgeois, in 1994.

They had expected the 400 sq m penthouse to be given to Mme Bourgeois's escort, an Algerian sweet-factory owner known to them as M Saad. "Mr Robinson was only one friend among many, or so we thought," Mme Domini said. "It was Saad who followed her everywhere."

She paused to reflect: "I suppose we saw less of Saad towards the end of her life. They seemed to stop living together but he still came to see her from time to time, so they can't have fallen out altogether." Another neighbour said: "Saad was the man in Mme Bourgeois's life. He was a lot younger than her — a lot — and very handsome. Mr Robinson? I don't know him. He never introduced himself and he never stopped to say hello."

Behind a thick layer of make-up, her face showed astonishment that the "English gentleman" should have obtained what is considered to be the finest apartment in the 1950s building on the Croisette.

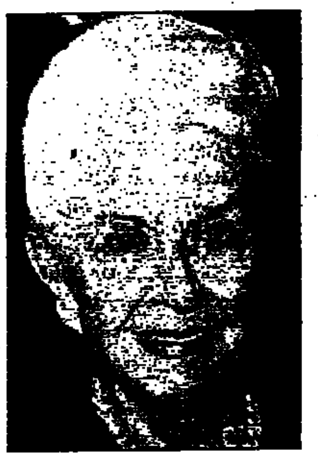
Mme Domini said that Mme Bourgeois had spent three or four months a year in Cannes but Mr Robinson made only infrequent visits to the flat, which has sweeping views of the exclusive Port Canto district and the Mediterranean beyond.

If he has kept a low profile in the three years that he has owned the penthouse, the same could not be said of Mme Bourgeois. Her wealth, jewellery and character attracted attention. "She was very elegant and very refined," Mme Domini said. "But she was not someone to be trifled with.

"She had her point of view and woe betide anyone who disagreed. She could tell you red was white and if you tried to point out she was wrong, she'd slap you down very firmly. You could tell she was used to the business world."

Mme Bourgeois was known to neighbours for taking younger men on Mediterranean cruises and for her famous acquaintances. Christiaan Barnard, the first surgeon to carry out a heart transplant, was a regular visitor to the flat and Mme Bourgeois claimed to know President Reagan.

A neighbour setting off to walk her dachshunds along the Croisette said: "She was someone out of the ordinary, someone exceptional. Mr Robinson is far more discreet."



Bourgeois: took young men on sea cruises

Taxing times

Continued from page 19

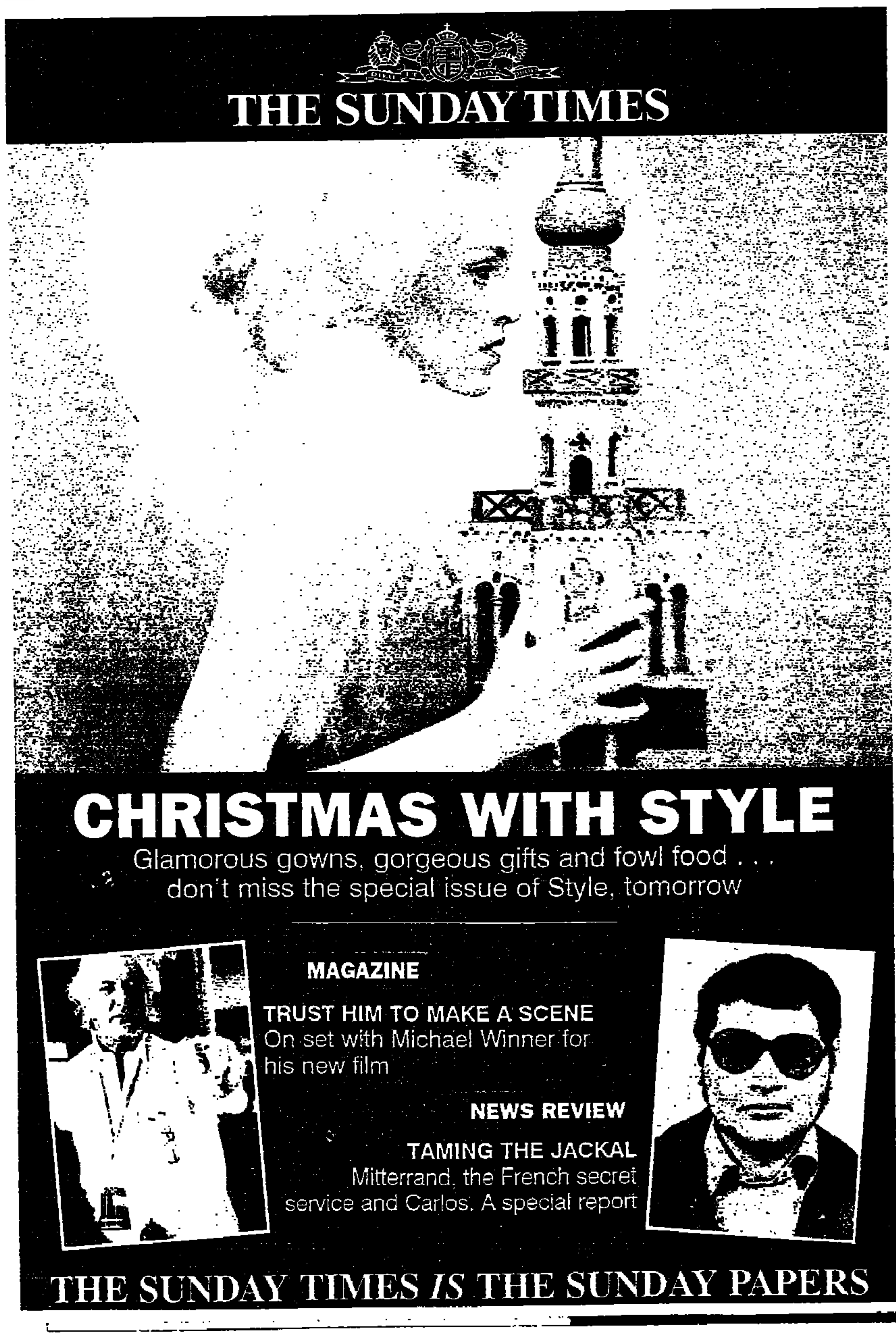
newspapers made allegations about his financial affairs. The next day, issuing detailed denials of any financial links with a Bermuda trust through his lawyers, he threatened to sue them. He uses the same lawyers as his former close business associate Robert Maxwell.

One of the Paymaster's houses, Orchards near Godalming, appears to have an obscure link with Mr Maxwell. According to Land Registry records, on August 5, 1991, a deed was lodged involving the property between Mr Robinson, his wife, Guardian Assurance and the Transfer Technology company. The latter had just been involved in a big financial deal that involved Mr Robinson becoming chairman and Mr Maxwell taking a 20.7 per cent stake in a restructured group.

Shortly afterwards Mr Maxwell, already known to be facing huge debts, fell to his death from his yacht. The Land Registry cannot divulge any more details of the links between the Robinson-Maxwell company and the Paymaster's main country residence. Maybe the Chancellor will ask him about it at the gym.

Until Mr Robinson answers the outstanding questions that have been put to him by the press and his political opponents, he will continue to be hounded. If he turns to fight a libel action, he must stand down as a minister. And as long as he remains in the Treasury he will be an embarrassment to Mr Blair and new Labour, conjuring up the spectre of sleaze that did for Mr Major's Government.

☐ *Additional reporting by Chris Ayres.*



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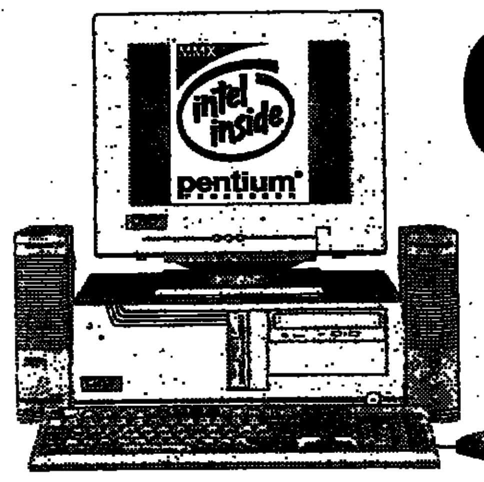

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VALERIE GROVE MEETS: COLIN BLAKEMORE

The brain with a mind to warn us on red meat

Professor Colin Blakemore, lean as a greyhound, has run 18 marathons, including the Olympic centenary event from Marathon to Athens where he came first in his age group (he is 53.) On Thursday night's *Dispatches* programme he told us he gave up eating beef in 1987 and would advise parents of small children to eschew both lamb and beef and stick to chicken: "safer than warm-blooded animals with hooves".

The Waynflete Professor of Physiology at Oxford is the model of the modern academic: forever on the Internet, on the mobile phone, and on the move. I reached him by cellphone as he travelled on the Circle Line from a symposium on the legalisation of cannabis (he is for it) en route for Oxford where he was due to lecture on How The Brain Works.

Within the hour I joined him on the Oxford train where he kindly halved his Danish pastry: his only sustenance on a normal workaholic day. The night before he had been in France, organising European Brain Day next March. His involvement in the BSE debate came about two years ago, when Stephen Dorrell was saying "there is no conceivable risk of transmission of this disease to human beings". Professor Blakemore came out and said this was an irresponsible statement. Things have moved on since then.

"The sheep farmers are furious," I told him, having just heard their aggrieved voices on *The World at One*. "I don't blame them," he replied. "I'm very sorry for them. But public health issues come first. The current concern with lamb may not merit a ban. But it's right that the public should know, even if there is a marginal risk." He is all for giving the facts and letting us make up our own minds. It is the Government's dilemma, to walk the fine line between nannying and merely advising sensible precautions.

"The European way is to lead public opinion, not follow it. On the evidence, people are slow to change: they are influenced by their stomachs rather than their brains. We know junk food is bad for us, but people like the taste."

Perhaps his single-minded dedication to careful eating springs from his awareness of mortality. His father — a smoker who took no exercise — had a coronary at 45 and died at 63. Professor Blakemore told Antony Clare while *In The Psychiatrist's Chair* — where he emerged as well-balanced and thoughtful — that he was ever on the lookout for early signs of forgetfulness in himself. He also had a duodenal ulcer in his teens and during his third year at Cambridge had a gastrectomy, losing half his stomach.

"It gave me an early intimation of mortality. I always had the feeling that I'm not going to live for very long. Hence the attitude that life had to be lived as fully as possible: you never know how long it will last." I confessed to the professor that this weekend our family will consume an enormous rib of Aberdeen Angus, hung by the most reliable butcher in Scotland. "Well," he said not very reassuringly, "anyone who has been eating beef for the last ten years is not going to alter the risk by stopping now. The danger was greatest before the first case of BSE was discovered in the mid-80s. The risk is infinitesimally low, and the precautions are gradually working. The missing information is the average incubation period.

"Only 21 people have so far died from a period when a substantial proportion of cattle were infected, every scrap of them going into the food chain. We know of no factor of genetic make-up that might have made these poor people especially vulnerable. I make no predictions but I believe the beef ban will be seen to be prudent. You have to weigh your assessment of risks by imagining that it could happen to you; and it is a most horrible, destructive disease and there is no cure.

"However small the risk, I would not go back. There are many reasons for not eating red meat."

The professor is well acquainted with more serious risks to his own life: from animal welfare activists who plagued him (with bombs, threats to kidnap his children, razor blades in envelopes, paint stripper on cars, balaclava'd figures on his doorstep) since he was singled out as a target when studying the development of vision in kittens. As a cat owner he has nothing against cats; but cats' lives were sacrificed in the cause of preventing certain types of blindness. He declares that he hates working with animals, he thinks it is wrong, and evil, but "it is a utilitarian equation: it is necessary, and a scientist must have honesty and integrity, and be accountable". Hence his part in founding the Boyd Group, a forum uniting scientists and animal activists.

Colin Blakemore was an only child who lived in a poor, two-up two-down area of Coventry. His father sold televisions. But Colin prospered at King Henry VIII Grammar School, Coventry. He could have done modern languages; he took A-level Art. (His tie, a striking riot of abstract colour, turned out to be by Kandinsky ("I so rarely wear a tie, it's worth making a statement"). "My parents had the most gratifyingly hands-off approach to me. They were mystified when I joined a record library and filled the house with Bruckner and Shostakovich. I had a hunger for culture and for making a better world, very common in the postwar Attlee years."

He went up to Cambridge on a scholarship to read medicine. It was the dawn of the post-Crick and Watson scientific era excitingly dominated by genetics. Professor Richard Gregory turned him on to the delights of visual perception and how neurons decoded messages from the eyes. He went on a Harkness scholarship to Berkeley and studied the visual cortex with the eminent visual physiologist Horace Barlow, great grandson of Darwin.

PETER NICHOLLS

Blakemore: "I had a hunger for a better world — a scientist must have honesty and integrity, and be accountable"

We were passing the Oxford Museum of Natural History — "where the great debate on Darwin took place between T. H. Huxley and Bishop Wilberforce in 1860" — and reached his office, a high-tech cupboard with a Francis Bacon on the wall, given to him by Bacon himself. Central TV waited to interview him about BSE. There were 100 e-mails on his screen.

He gave me a 20-minute seminar on the human eye (not much different from the eye of the frog) and how 30 per cent of our cerebral cortex is devoted exclusively to vision, how the brain decodes and parses visual images; and how genetic diseases, neurological and psychiatric conditions, may be based on the way the cerebral cortex develops.

"I think we will discover to our horror that many of the most personal and sacred aspects of individuality are determined genetically. Female sociability, we already know, comes from one specific gene on the X chromosome, which comes from the father, and which boys do not inherit." I could have listened all night but we had to depart for Templeton College and the gathering of Price Waterhouse accountants: "Businessmen are terribly interested in intelligence and the brain, and how to have better memories and make more effective decisions."

The talk he gave was enthralling. The audience was particularly interested in how far silicon can mimic the functions of the brain. "We are nowhere near making computers that can see or move around with the ease and skill of mice," he said. "We can do things with our brains that are fantastically complex and yet feel effortless. We store records of experience and selectively organise memories — including sights, sounds and smells — which a computer cannot. On the other hand, our numerical memory depends on relevance and usefulness." He did his party trick, reproducing from memory 18 lines of figures on a screen (they were the dates of birth of himself, his wife, their three children, his telephone number, wedding anniversary etc.) Cunning — but pathetic compared with the thousands of bytes in his tiny pocket calculator.

I can see how the softly-spoken professor has become one of the scientists embraced by the media: "After all, scientists depend on public money and we do have a responsibility to communicate. Science throws up great moral dilemmas. If we just create the dilemmas and step back, we get the blame for whatever goes wrong — nuclear power, chemical warfare, abuse of eugenics."

Professor Blakemore, current president of the British Association and long associated with Copus (Royal Society Committee for the Public Understanding of Science) is convinced that governments have a duty to implement scientific advice: "Otherwise it reflects badly on science, when things go wrong." I shall think of him over our roast rib of beef.

Letters, page 23

Vibrant revival is fair game for laughs

Bartholomew Fair

Swan, Stratford

Nothing like a modern fair," declares the author of a programme note describing the bash our ancestors threw every August in Smithfield. That is not, however, the view of Laurence Boswell, who directs the latest revival of Jonson's most ebullient comedy.

To judge by the mix of toppers, Hawaiian shirts, leopard-skin jackets, baseball caps and spangled *décolletages* to be seen under the swaying electric bulbs of Tom Piper's set, Bartholomew Fair was a Technicolor nowhere-very-clear. Call it the Malibu parish of the Benidorm district of the Blackpool region of the Las Vegas suburb of what, since giant puppets as well as people come cavorting onstage, must be Rio.

Does this failure to be specific matter? Well, the most effective revivals of the play I can recall have had some period consistency. Moreover, the attempts of Boswell's cast to be vivid and hilarious can become strenuous and counterproductive. Yet there were moments when Jonson's good nature and comic generosity are hard to resist.

In no other play does he so fully demonstrate his love of disguises, con-tricks, misconduct, lust and the pricking of hypocrisy and flouting of pomposity. Merely to go to Bartholomew Fair, like Stephen Boxer's dim Littlewit and Tom Goodman-Hill's still dopier Cokes, is to blunder unarmed into a universe where different moral physics apply. To try to curb the chaos, as do John Quayle's magisterial Overdo and David Henry's puritan Zeal-of-the-land Busy, is like fending off Niagara with an umbrella.

The company, from Gavin Muir as a male nanny in loud yellow tartan through Carol Macready as a vast, sweaty pork-cook to Kevork Malikyan as a monomaniac who believes he cannot sneeze without getting a warrant from Judge Overdo, display unflagging energy. But there is miscasting at the centre. The disasters that overtake Overdo — whose busybodying results in him being beaten, put in the stocks, and discovering his wife has been hijacked by pimps — would be funnier if that naturally benign actor, Quayle, could validly be described as someone who "burns blue and swells like a boil an' he be angry".

Likewise with Henry's Zeal-of-the-Land, who is physically formidable but not slimy enough for it to be satisfying when he is bested in argument by the star of a puppet-show. Nevetheless, the moral that both men end up endorsing comes across strongly enough: "Remember you are but Adam, flesh and blood." That was Jonson's case against the prudes and scolds of his day — and, let's concede, isn't without aptness in our own.

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Nanny gets cross when we light up

Put puritanism in your pipe and smoke it, says **Roger Scruton**

When Parliament is not rubber-stamping decrees from Brussels, it shows off its dwindling power by issuing decrees of its own, designed to oppress our old minorities. The ban on handguns ushered in a new style of self-righteous politics, in which real and present dangers are ignored in favour of soft domestic targets. Hunting follows handguns as a matter of course. Henceforth, the most important question will always be this: which group of law-abiding people, engaged in some old-fashioned and politically incorrect pursuit, will be the next to offend the suburban prudes who govern us?

The answer for the moment is clear: smokers. Take one look at the typical smoker and you will see why. He has done nothing to transgress the old morality, belongs to no privileged minority, is neither gay nor a single parent nor anything else which attracts the enthusiastic condescension of our new elite. His inexcusable crime is to have exchanged quantity of life for quality, cheerfully accepting what, by modern standards, is an early death, as the price to be paid for his old-fashioned habit. And the terrible thing — the thing which really gets up the nose of Ms Grundy MP — is that someone is making a profit from his weakness. People do not merely buy cigarettes; they also sell them.

The current attack on tobacco advertising is an unusually ambitious act of censorship, involving organised mendacity of a kind that far surpasses what we have seen from the opponents of fox-hunting (though that was unscrupulous enough). We are told that tobacco costs the NHS £1.7 billion a year — though how this can be so, when smokers die earlier from causes (heart disease and cancer) which are just as likely to afflict the rest of us, nobody has explained. Is it only because of smoking that we don't all live for ever, troubling the NHS for the occasional organ transplant when the going gets rough?

The propaganda is criminally selective. Excessive meat-eating increases the chance of cancer. Motor cars pollute the atmosphere, fray the nerves and shorten the lives of all of us. They are the direct cause of death and injury, and burden the NHS with complex and expensive surgery. Should we ban the advertising of cars?

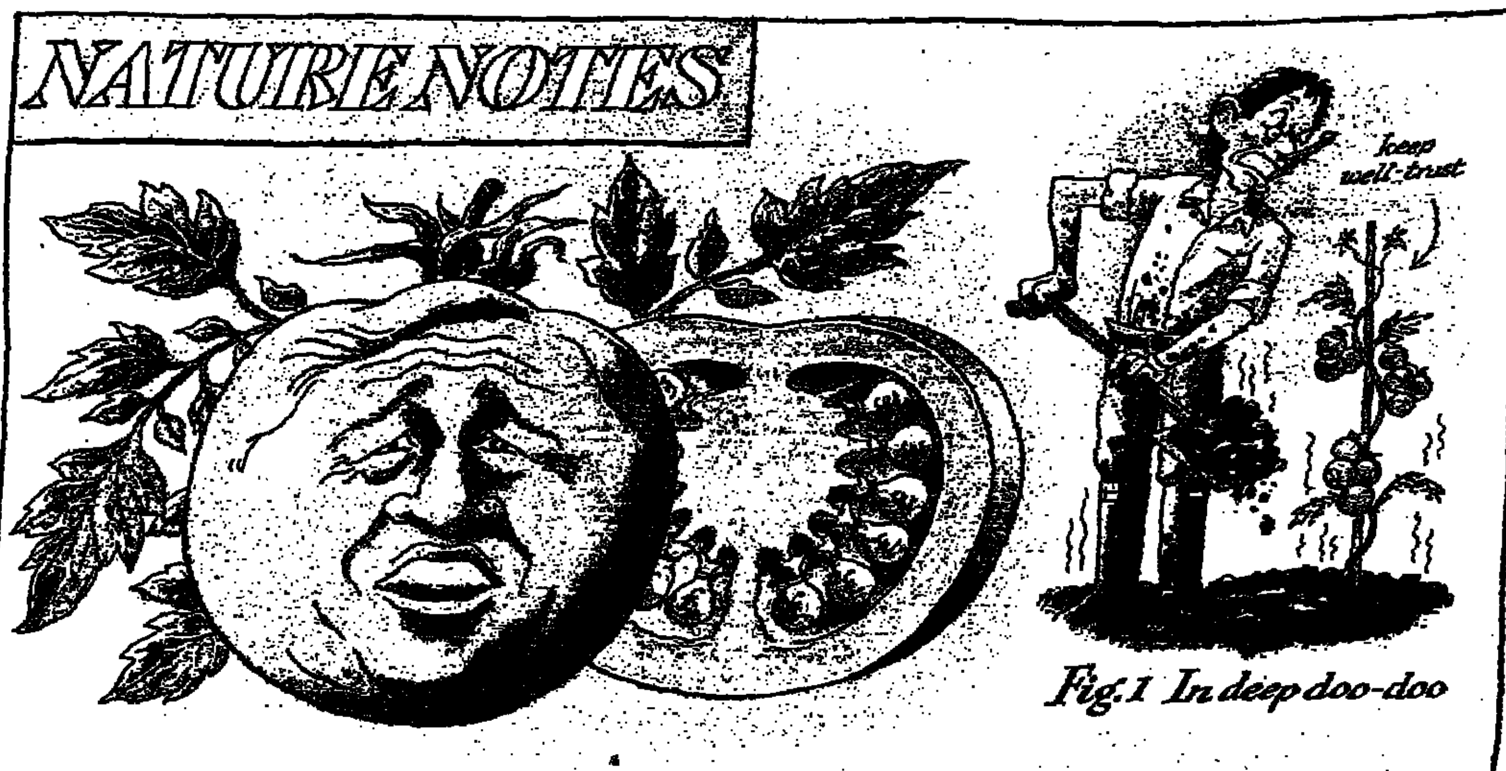
If we are to engage in such busybodying politics, we ought to be clear about our principles. If a product is legally sold, the producer has a right to advertise and the consumer a right to be informed about the product. To override that principle is not merely to violate the freedoms on which the market economy depends; it is to open the way to unfair trading.

The most reprehensible feature of the attack on tobacco, however, is not the contempt for established rights but the phoney view of health which is being forced on us by the lobbyists — many of them bristling with medical titles. The propaganda assumes that health means living for as long as possible while avoiding physical disease. Ninety years of bored solitude, twiddling the knobs of a television set, is apparently no sign of sickness. Mental equilibrium, creative energy, social participation and spiritual calm have all been censored out of the official view of health, even though they are essential to anything that our ancestors would have recognised as the good life for man.

Properly used, tobacco makes a real and positive contribution to health. It calms the nerves and imposes moments of rest and contemplation; it also equips people for the trials of social life by providing something which can be offered and accepted at any time of the day. It is from the American pipe of peace that we learnt to smoke. Our ancestors perceived the great moral and social benefits that the Indians obtained from this source, and were wise enough to bring it home with them.

Smoking tobacco is also an outgoing diversion, involving none of the morbid self-obsession associated with the smoking of cannabis. Unlike drug users, smokers are not more disposed to crime than the rest of us, nor do they suffer that catastrophic decline into lying, cheating and self-pity which we know from drug addiction. And if tobacco is addictive, so too are pop music, television and soft pornography, all of which are genuinely unhealthy, since they trivialise the loyalties and corrode the social capacities of their targets. In a letter to *The Times* of December 3, a group of pompous paediatricians warned us that smokers start their habit in adolescence. When else does anything start? To think that adolescents are at risk from tobacco adverts, when the Prodigy are adulated for the song *Slap My Bitch Up*, and when fanzines inform the young that sexual promiscuity and drug-inducted stupor are the marks of social style, is to have a perverted view of what health consists in.

It was King James I who began the war against tobacco, sounding off in tetchy prose against a habit that he was powerless to cut off — although he did cut off the head of Sir Walter Raleigh, who introduced it. Despite the EU, the House of Commons now has more power than any Stuart king, and less respect for the rights of old minorities. That is not how the House of Commons sees itself, but that is how it is. A new body of inverted puritans sits in judgment over us, animated by a censorious passion that ought to be quite foreign to the political process, but which is foreign no longer. The time has come to blow smoke in their eyes.



Robinson's Guernsey Tomato (*Youmustus trustus*)
This 'Money-maker' variety, when introduced to the hot-house atmosphere of Westminster, can produce red faces all round.
For bourgeois tastes.

Sponsorship unlimited

Does a corporate takeover of Christmas television deprive us of all dignity?

Simon Jenkins

Commercial television this Christmas will be "brought to you" by the Panasonic Corporation of Japan. New Year's Eve and Day will come courtesy of Toyota. Its 19-programme bonanza over two days will promote the new Avensis car. Meanwhile Regent Street's lights are also up for sale. They currently blazon the name of Yves St Laurent along that once-graceful sweep. Down below, London's black cabs are coated with corporate promotions. Knightsbridge station may be renamed "Harrods". The Sponsored Society takes another lurch forward.

You are a cultivated person. You like music and theatre. You take politics seriously and can keep life's trivia in proportion. Yet all around you claim to see a drift "down market". Television seems to be all game shows and old movies. The quality press has gone tabloid. Exam standards are falling. The Turner Prize is rubbish. Radio 3 has become Classic FM. Bad money has driven out good. The public guardians lack all conviction. Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. Or so you think. And now they have flogged off Christmas.

When commercial television arrived in Britain in 1955, programmes could be sponsored by advertisers. It was soon clear to the authorities that these "advertorials" were deceptive and undignified. They were banned and other ways found for television companies to print money. Under steady pressure from the companies, laughably pleading poverty, the rule against sponsorship has been reversed, except for the news. Powergen thus sponsors the weather forecast. Finance companies sponsor money programmes on radio. This week's £18 million deal with Toyota follows Cadbury's £10 million sponsorship of *Coronation Street*. A spokesman for ITV said on Thursday that such deals "still have a long way to go yet".

At this point the mind can boggle. Not just advertising slots but whole networks are for sale. If a Panasonic Christmas, why not a Virgin Atlantic Queen riding in a Nissan royal coach to the NatWestminster Abbey? If the Cornhill Test match, why not the Ladbroke's opening of Parliament, the TSB Budget speech, the British Gas Sunday sermon? If universities, Tube stations, litter bins and street signs can be put out to sponsorship, what is to stop anything? Unless we can articulate the boundaries of taste, there is no reason to hold back. The BBC is going flat out for ratings to justify a soaring licence fee. It surely may as well use those ratings to secure advertising revenue instead.

Nor is advertising the only issue. Nobody can scan a television schedule or the front page of a national newspaper and fail to observe them moving steadily "down market". When Radio 3 relaunched itself last month, it did so by promising not more Mozart or Brahms but more Richard Baker and Joan Bakewell. Broadcast news comes littered with idiot sound effects. Once-serious newspapers promote health, sex and shopping guides. The ubiquitous search for new markets seems to rely on Mencken's dictum that nobody ever lost money by underestimating the public's intelligence. Everybody is heading for cultural hell in a handcart.

This argument is as old as civilisation. From Milton through Cobbett to Gissing and Orwell, commentators have deplored declining standards of public "culture", usually defining that slippery word to suit the case in hand. Each generation has been appalled at the next. Probably the biggest trauma in the history of *The Times* was in 1971, when a large number of journalists publicly dissociated themselves from the "popularisation" of the paper under the august editorship of my colleague, William Rees-Mogg. Those journalists would have a fit today. Throughout history commentators have gazed about them and sighed, with T.S. Eliot's practical cat, that "the theatre's certainly not what it was". Nothing is ever what it was.

Just as crime is always rising inexorably, so the received wisdom is that culture is always degenerating. The villain is commercial pressure driving producers in the direction of mass markets, away from specialised and more high-minded ones. Mass production demands mass needs at the lowest common denominator: not just bread and circuses but sliced bread and raunchy circuses. In his latest diatribe against this degeneration (*The Way We Live Now*, Pimlico), Richard Hoggart pleads for a "new clerisy", a regiment of intellectuals ready, like the intellectuals of old, to stand up for cultural values. Politicians are absolutist for family values, so why not for cultural ones? We claim to despise moral "relativists", yet we shrink from seeming cultural authoritarians. We use the words good and bad of morality but not of culture. That way we do not have to defend it against degeneration.

Yet much of the so-called down-market drift is a misnomer. It is what economists call a market correction, a search for a new balance of profit and loss amid ever-changing competition. This is nowhere more apparent than in the press. At present, falling sales of tabloid newspapers are mirrored by rising sales of broadsheets, which have shifted to appeal to previous tabloid readers. Analysts now suspect that the tabloids have gone too far down market, while the broadsheets are in danger of leaving a gap on their up-market flank. It was just such a gap that *The Independent* exploited in the late 1980s. Cultural activities must judge their markets to survive. That is their business, whether they depend on profit or are accountable to sponsors or taxpayers. What matters is the survival of public choice, and that depends on effective regulation.

These markets usually go in cycles. It is tendentious to generalise from an upswing or downswing in the market for books, newspapers, television programmes or junk art, especially when the only generalities that get airtime are pessimistic. Recent surveys by Social Trends suggest that Britons have never enjoyed so much book-buying, music-listening, film-producing, novel-writing, theatre-performing and lecture-attending than now. Local arts festivals are booming. Anarchy there may be, but anarchy is not necessarily the enemy of culture. To popularise is not a dirty word. It can mean to diversify, to deepen as well as broaden. Mr Hoggart's intellectuals must just work harder for a hearing.

So what is wrong with Panasonic sponsoring Christmas on commercial television? Who cares about Regent Street or black cabs or Knightsbridge station? Those who need cross-subsidy should not look gift-horses in the mouth. Most commercial sponsors act from a mixture of motives, like patrons of old. Since many corporate taxes have declined, sponsorship is a "privatisation" of tax transfers to the community. It is an alternative to ever-tighter government support. So why not let the market rip? This is a free country in the 20th century, with no time for Milton's fastidious distinction between freedom and licence.

For an answer I turn to my collection of unfashionable virtues. In his television lectures on civilisation, Lord Clark defined a civilised community not by its art or politics or scientific advance but with a surprising word: courtesy. Millions of viewers must have sneered at this recourse to such a feeble, patrician concept. Yet I still regard courtesy, with all its nuances, as the best proxy for civilisation that I know.

In the sponsorship debate, the unfashionable concept is dignity. Dignity is as important in the public sphere as in the private. It is the lens through which we allow others to see us. I find nothing undignified in most corporate sponsorship. It is an eccentric contract between commerce and the community, but no less noble for that. A company giving to whatever takes the chairman's fancy is no different from the tycoon who buys a racehorse, backs a theatre or owns a loss-making newspaper. Not all rewards in this world need be pecuniary, and thank goodness for that.

But there is dignity in the absence of advertising from the BBC. There is dignity in the banning of billboards from the countryside, government buildings and motorway embankments. There is indignity in the sponsorship of Christmas on television and in what has been done to Regent Street. These are not issues of high culture. The world will not end if they are ignored. But I prefer them respected, and imagine others do too. The public domain needs regulating with conviction, by rulers who understand the meaning of words much out of fashion. One of them is dignity.

The name's Bond — do rescue me

Simon Barnes is not convinced that 007 is really tough

James Bond is back. Yet another film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, yet another actor, Pierce Brosnan. Bond is greater than ever, a figure with the same relationship to mortality as tomorrow itself. And still no one has rumbled him.

Bond is, as ever, taken at face value: a strong man who rescues damsels in distress. The films have always taken this view: Bond, unflappable, unbeatable, the ever-gallant damsel-rescuer. The truth could not be more different.

The Bond films merely portray Bond's fantasy of himself. But the books are canonical, and give a true picture of the real Bond: a man remarkable not for his strength but for his weakness; not for his inevitable success but for his intimate relationship with disaster.

The first myth to scotch is that of the damsel-rescuer. The truth is that damsels are far more likely to be Bond-rescuers. Time and again, Bond is saved from self-created disaster by the timely intervention of a damsel.

Tiffany Case rescues him from the Spangled Mob and engineers their getaway by rail. Kissy Suzuki rescues him when he falls into the sea from a helium balloon. Tracy, his bride-to-be, rescues him after he collapses in an ice-rink. (The collapse was probably brought about by Bond's attempt to cure exposure and shock by drinking a quarter-pint of schnapps in a single, ill-advised gulp.)

The battle against Goldfinger was only won when, in every sense of the term, Pussy Galore changed sides. Pussy, you will recall, led a lesbian circus troupe called the Abro Cats, who turned to cat-burglary.

But Pussy changed everything for Bond. She helped him to save the world for democracy and then went to bed with him, telling him she had never met a *man* before. Bond, rejecting for once the obvious line — "I bet you say that to all the girls" — goes along with this and, as the book closes, his mouth comes ruthlessly down over hers.

Of course it does. Pussy is no fool and was smart enough to make herself the ultimate conquest, the ultimate symbol of the victory of right over wrong: wrong morals, wrong sexual orientation, all cured by one look at the rebellious comma of hair that always fell above one of the rather ironical eyebrows.

Bond is no conqueror, but forever conquered. Women annex him. They look after him. Bond is, in short, in constant need of mothering. These quasi-maternal flings bring security to a troubled man.

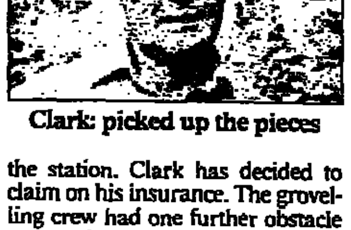
Bond also seeks security in drink, in calm periods no more than half a bottle of spirits a day — "no one could call that excessive" — and in cigarettes, 60 or more Morland specials with the three gold rings. His snobberies are transparently arriviste.

Bond is a weak and fallible man. Many episodes take place in a partially concealed state of drunken funk. Time after time he is reduced to a grey, lunging automaton, and he remains one of the great creations of genre fiction.

He is weak, he is a phoney, but he prevails. What better character to identify with? Most of us spend our lives waiting for the moment when they find us out. All we can do is hope that our luck holds. The greatness of Bond is not that he prevails in spite of his weaknesses. He prevails *because* of his weaknesses. That is what makes him a hero of our time — and of everybody else's time.

Art broken

WHENEVER television crews trample across the drawbridge of the once serene Saltwood Castle, poor Alan Clark is cursed with rotten luck. Only last month the delightful old boy was forced to attend court to defend the honour of his rottweiler, Leni, who was accused of having given a BBC cameraman a "warning nip". Since then a rival television station has been summoned to Kent to film the insightful musings of the venerable MP. This time it was Clark's turn to suffer. As the crew entered the drawing room, a hapless sound recordist dislodged a prized Degas from its moorings. Clark froze in horror as the work — bought by his father, the keen collector Lord Clark — crashed to the floor.



Clark: picked up the pieces

The glass frame shattered into a thousand pieces with shards embedding themselves in the canvas, adding a modernist touch to the Impressionist sketch. To his credit, Clark recovered his sang-froid and picked up the pieces. Urgent renovation work could repair the picture, he concluded. Rather than sue the station, Clark has decided to claim on his insurance. The grovelling crew had one further obstacle to negotiate on their way out: two very cross rottweilers.

"Sorry gentlemen, not without closer ties"

THE TIMES DIARY

JASPER GERARD

● *A BOLD allusion: William Hague's Christmas card has landed gently on the doormat of Diary Towers. It depicts William Pitt — the Younger, of course. He became Prime Minister at 24.*

Chain reaction

THIS is a sombre little tale. A sapling planted in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, by her sister, Lady Jane Fellowes, has been ripped up. The tree was put to earth in a quiet ceremony at the Young England Kindergarten, where the Princess worked before she married Prince Charles. Within 48 hours it had been torn out and thrown over the school fence. So the principal, Kay King, has replanted it — and chained it to railings in case the vandals return. "I hope that will protect it," she says, "but your guess is as good as mine."

● *THE greatest living Italian, Luciano Pavarotti, does not travel well. He has been snubbed by the Barbados Opera Festival run by Johnny Kidd, Beaverbrook's grandson and Jodie's father. The tenor — who will be on the island this spring anyway — had topped the bill last March, but Kidd was unimpressed. "It was not a financial bonanza. Pavarotti's people were a nightmare. They would agree to do something and then not do it. The whole thing was very difficult." So who have the Kidds got instead? "Porgy and Bess, with a band called the Desperados."*

Johnny's girl: Jodie Kidd

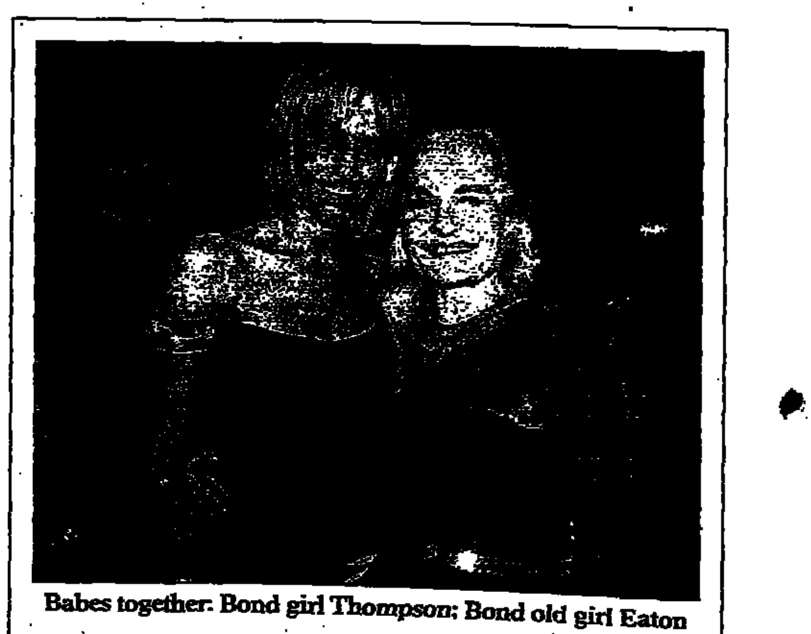
Straw poll

AFTER the dust-up over lone parents, Jack Straw faced a personal parental rebellion this week. The Home Secretary is chairman of governors at London's Pimlico School and this week, standing for re-election, was opposed by two firebrands. They accused him of having a "hidden political agenda" — a Tory one. An opponent, Michael Ball, accused Straw of wanting the school "knocked down rather than refurbished". Labour has stuck with the Tory policy of using private finance to build schools. Critics said childrens' interests were threatened. Straw rejected the grumbles and romped home.

● *THE UBS/SBC Warburg merger, with its loss of 3,000 jobs, is grim news for John Major. His old chum, the mercurial Lord Garel-Jones, a UBS director, was rumoured to have lined up the chairmanship for him. But now . . .*

OLD TIMES
WHEN Tory Treasurer Lord McAlpine was not so keen on state funding of political activity: "That can only lead to corruption and a further alienation of the public from politicians and their parties, who will be seen to have their noses in the public trough." (1995)

NEW TIMES
TELETUBBIES are heading for the sewers. Southern Water complains that toddlers are shoving toys (often belonging to siblings) down loos. "Once it was ninja turtles jamming our pipes, now we have teletubbies," says an aggrieved loo man.



Babes together: Bond girl Thompson; Bond old girl Eaton

PARTY TIMES
NOSTALGIA for an earlier Bond era whistled through the draughty, cavernous marquee that enveloped Bedford Square for the sumptuous post-premiere party of *Tomorrow Never Dies*. While the agent's co-stars murmured approval for Pierce Brosnan, all agreed that Connery remains the master.

Cecile Thompson, the new film's überbabe, is a particular admirer. She told Shirley Eaton, the gilded girl in *Goldfinger*, that she was "so lucky to have worked with Sean — he will always be Bond for me," before tactfully adding that "Pierce has come very close". Eaton concurred. Among the old-timers were Shirley Bassey ("Where's Pierce? I'm going if he's not here") and Desmond Llewellyn, still delightful as gadget-meister "Q". So how did 007 think the film had gone down? "I was in the Ivy. I've seen it already."

Oddly, Michael Cole, Mohamed Al Fayed's well-groomed supplicant, was whooping it up: "Mohamed has been a friend of the producers since he lent them an oil tanker for *The Spy Who Loved Me*, where it swallows a submarine."

Robinson could not comment | Office, Abbey House, 215-229 Baker Street, London NW1 6XL. Registered in England & Wales. Registered number 2294747.

BLAIR'S X FACTOR

Defeat in a battle that should never have been joined

This weekend's Luxembourg summit could and should have been one of Britain's happier encounters with the tangled politics of the European Union. The main business before this European Council was enlargement to the East, a cause long championed by this country. The decision to fix March 31 as the date to start negotiations with the five Central European front-runners, expected today, promised to puff the sails of the British presidency beginning next month and add substance to Tony Blair's claims to leadership within Europe. Instead, entirely through their own fault, Mr Blair and his Chancellor retreat from Luxembourg as the familiar "born losers" of Euro-diplomacy.

The cause of their very public humiliation was their insistence on picking a fight they could not win, in a battle of no importance, over Britain's "right" to be admitted to an economic talking shop with no formal powers and not even, as yet, a proper name. The argument was over whether Britain, as a non-EMU country, should have a seat as of right at the planned Euro-X club of EMU finance ministers — the X will be filled in when it is known how many countries join the first wave — which is supposed to smooth out disagreements over the workings of EMU on a purely informal basis.

France, whose brainchild it is, would admittedly like this group to develop into a serious political counterweight to the future European central bank. But as Messrs Blair and Brown well know, Germany and the Dutch want it to become no such thing. Since Britain agrees with these two important players that nothing must be permitted to undermine the treaty-based authority of Ecofin, the formal finance ministers' council of all EU members, the last thing the Government should have made a fuss about was the quite reasonable objection that unless and until it joins EMU, Britain had no automatic rights in an EMU-only club.

Mr Blair's most elegant, and effective, attitude would have been a polite, almost Gallic shrug. At the very least, once the Chancellor had been humiliatingly rebuffed in Brussels earlier this month, Mr Blair should have known better than to stake on this issue all the EU political credits he has been carefully amassing over the past year. Instead, rejecting the various face-saving fudges on offer, he swept into the summit yesterday declaring that "we've got to be there", spent a fruitless morning interrupting everybody and failed to achieve his objective. Some sugar was added to the recipe, but fudge remained on the menu.

If Mr Blair thought that personal charisma would prevail, the scathing commentary on his "over-excited" performance, coming not only from the French but from the Germans and his Dutch friends, will have been a rude shock. It was, the Germans pityingly remarked, a fuss about nothing.

Mr Blair has wasted firepower he should have reserved for important battles down the road. The worst of it is that in the process, he has boosted the symbolic importance of a body that it is in Britain's interest to downgrade.

The imminent British presidency falls at a time of genuinely momentous decisions over EMU and over enlargement, where the hard part begins only now. The unwise decision to include Cyprus in the first round of new applicants risks a crisis in the EU's already strained relations with Turkey, an important Western ally. Mr Blair has rightly argued for a Europe of large horizons, and for summits which lift their eyes from petty institutional squabbles to the securing of Europe's peace and prosperity. This was just the sort of pettifogging dispute that he scorns and he should not have been trapped into it. The hope must be that having caught, so early, a case of EU-disease, the experience will immunise him against a relapse.

THE VALUES OF THE HEART

A call to support the example of Philip Lawrence

It was only two years ago this month that Philip Lawrence, an inspirational headmaster in one of the capital's neglected corners, became a victim of one of its lost youths. He was, in the moving words of his widow Frances, "stabbed through the heart by a young man who had never learnt the values of the heart". Mrs Lawrence was speaking yesterday at a ceremony which celebrated those values. Young people whose own sense of citizenship had been brought to the attention of the Home Office were honoured with awards which commemorate the life and beliefs of Philip Lawrence. The winners had not set out to secure recognition for their individual acts of community spirit but the acknowledgement of their work both commemorates the past and encourages for the future.

Yesterday's awards were the first in a competition which the Home Secretary hopes will become part of "the fabric of our national life" but their continuance will require support from beyond the State. The Home Office is looking for private sponsorship to extend and entrench the awards scheme. It is entirely appropriate that awards which celebrate communal effort and the re-stitching of civil society should be sustained by a spirit of voluntarism.

As a headmaster, Philip Lawrence chose to work in a school where deprivation and the demands of reaching out to different cultures called for special qualities from the staff. He proved himself an exceptional leader, and led by example. A quiet authority and firm Catholic faith enabled him to impress on his pupils, raised in a culture of dutiless rights, the importance of boundaries, the value of effort and a respect for others and for a moral code. His brutal murder, stabbed as he went to the aid of one of his own pupils, was a tragic testament to his own greatness of spirit.

His example inspired his widow, Frances, to campaign against the causes of the violence which claimed her husband. Her words helped move legislators to action and one of the fruits was the award scheme inaugurated yesterday. The idea of the last Home Secretary, Michael Howard, it has been enthusiastically supported by his successor, Jack Straw. The award winners recognised yesterday have all shown something of the purpose, creativity, regard for their neighbours and unaffected moral sense which Philip Lawrence cherished in his pupils and which are the mark of the good citizen. Enterprises like the South London youth radio station Fundamental FM prove that there need be nothing pious about citizenship. Involvement with it, and the other projects honoured, provide the young people recognised yesterday with an enjoyment far more enduring than the empty life of the streets led by the gang members who found themselves in court after the murder of Mr Lawrence.

The private sector should need no incentive other than a regard for the health of our shared society to ensure that other young people's efforts continue to be rewarded. It would, however, be in line with the best evolving corporate practice. New enterprises such as the company *Good Business* have recently been established to harness private sector giving in a manner which is socially useful and effective in business terms. Philip Lawrence's sacrifice and values should not be forgotten and the more who can commit themselves to supporting the ideals of good citizenship, the more effective the commemoration of his powerful example.

ARISE, SIR TOM

Stoppard is the playwright who makes mortality immortal

Honours are most satisfying when they reward those who make us laugh and cry: preeminently the knights errant — and aberrant — of the theatre. Most of our equestrian Thespians are, however, actors; playwrights are likely to be honoured belatedly, if at all. Apart from those histrionic prodigies who, like Noel Coward, are equally at home as writers and performers, dramatists tend to be recognised in their dotage: not the Sir Lancelots, but the Don Quixotes of the stage.

Now, though, we shall have to get used to Sir Tom Stoppard, who was knighted yesterday. Never was a chevalier more chivalrous; never was a dramaturgical personage more modest. At a London Library lecture last month, Sir Tom's earlier journalistic career was recalled by the historian John Grigg, who remembered that his wedding more than 30 years ago had been reported with unusual acuity by a local reporter from Bristol. Looking up the cutting, he discovered that the byline was Tom Stoppard's — his first, as it turned out.

Born in the Czech town of Zlin as Tom Straussler (he later adopted his mother's surname), his childhood was spent in Singapore and India before his parents moved to England after the war. It was only very recently that he discovered by accident that he was partly Jewish. The combination of Central Europe and the British Empire has proved a potent one.

From his first big hit, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1967), he brought an intellectual intensity, anarchic wit and heightened linguistic consciousness to the British stage which had no precedent. Here was a playwright who could turn unpromisingly rebarbative subjects — minor characters in *Hamlet*, analytical philosophy, a trivial lawsuit involving James Joyce — into popular classics. The allusive virtuosity that is Stoppard's hallmark has not prevented him from defying theatrical gravity: the lightness of his beings is never unbearable.

Since his rise in the 1970s, Stoppard has kept his preeminent status while taking risks to explore new realms. His latest play, *The Invention of Love*, depicts A. E. Housman and Oscar Wilde. The lives of scholars, even great ones, are rarely exciting; and there seems no dramatic contest between the repressed author of *A Shropshire Lad* and the martyr of Reading Gaol. Yet Stoppard has improbably succeeded in turning Housman into a more tragic and likeable figure than Wilde himself. It was a typically daring stroke to have portrayed Housman both in youth and in old age. Stoppard himself is now sixty, and though he still looks ten years younger, he is no longer a lad who will never be old. But the playwright is there to render mortality immortal and immortality mortal. We have no greater practitioner of that art than Sir Tom.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Confusion on Isas, Tessas and Peps

From Mr Michael J. Sant

Sir, Would it not be more sensible to retain the Pep, albeit capped but rather higher than £50,000, and replace the Tessa with a flexible, low-cost scheme incorporating elements of the Isa (letters, December 6) relevant and helpful to the lower paid?

The Pep has evolved over the years and is now well understood as an investment vehicle. Why change it? Doing so will lead to confusion and justifiable charges of retrospective taxation.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE SANT,
21 The Street,
Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7BW.
michaelsant@lineone.net
December 7.

From Mrs Diane Weitz

Sir, As I understand it, people starting a new Isa in April 1999 will be entitled to put in contributions over their lifetime of £50,000.

Investors who currently hold Peps and Tessas are only allowed to transfer £50,000 of their existing investments to the new Isa account. Much of this will be due to growth, particularly in relation to Peps which have been held for a number of years.

If a restriction on contribution is necessary then Pep and Tessa holders should, at the very least, be able to transfer funds with an initial contribution of £50,000 excluding growth.

Yours faithfully,
DIANE WEITZ,
81 Hatherley Road,
Cheltenham GL51 6EG.
diane.weitz4@virgin.net
December 8.

From Mr D. C. Hawley

Sir, I write as one of the 300,000 / 750,000 in some bewilderment as to why the true number of those affected by the proposed Isa limit cannot be ascertained.

Each time I have purchased a Pep I have been obliged to supply my national insurance number. In my naivety I had assumed that the Pep provider passed this on to the Inland Revenue. Am I wrong?

Yours faithfully,
D. C. HAWLEY,
2 Peacefield,
Marple, Stockport SK6 7QQ.
December 11.

Weekend Money letters, page 63

Aerospace 'assets'

From the Director General of The Society of British Aerospace Companies Ltd

Sir, In your review of the *National Register of Assets*, published by the Treasury (details, November 25), you state that "Investment in aircraft projects has failed to reap dividends." You might have added, "yet".

Although the level of government financial support for the projects you named is correct, it is not in the form of grants but repayable, interest-bearing loans with royalties on subsequent sales.

The A320 Airbus is, as reported, close to repaying the original loan, but in addition Her Majesty's Government will continue to receive some payment over the lifetime of the aircraft. Orders for the high-value A330 and A340 currently stand at 409; as sales revenue builds on aircraft and Rolls-Royce engines, returns on the Government's investment will accrue.

Industry projections suggest that on current aerospace orders there will be over £600 million returned to HMG by the year 2000 across this investment portfolio.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARSHALL,
Director General,
The Society of British
Aerospace Companies Ltd,
Duxbury House,
60 Petty France, Victoria, SW1H 9EU.
December 4.

English cuisine

From Mr Kit Chapman

Sir, For *The Times* to devote a long news feature (November 29), two leading articles (November 29 and December 4), and substantial space in its correspondence columns (December 6) to the subject of English food ranks as an editorial landmark.

However, satisfying as it may be to see this country rediscover an appetite for some of its traditional recipes, as a nation we still remain pathetically squeamish in some departments of the gastronomic arts.

One of our specialities, Bath chaps (pigs' cheeks), failed to sell as advertised until we redefined the same recipe on the menu as braised pork. It is now a best seller.

Yours etc,
KIT CHAPMAN
(Author, *Great British Chefs*,
Mitchell Beazley, 1989 and 1995),
The Castle Hotel,
Castle Green, Taunton TA1 1NF.
December 8.

**Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

Ban on beef by 'ministerial nannies'

From Dr A. W. Holmes

Sir, If we accept the latest advice from the Ministry of Agriculture that the risk of CJD from beef on the bone is unacceptable, we have to recognise that nothing that we eat is safe.

In the early 1970s I gave a lecture on this theme to the Institute of Food Science and Technology. I exaggerated the results of "scientific" experiments, extrapolating them unrealistically. I had to rely on microbiology and heart disease to demolish beef then: the task would today be much easier. I suggested that oranges, and indeed all fruit and vegetables, were unsafe because experiments claimed to demonstrate that Vitamin C can induce genetic mutation. The concentrations used in such experiments were so high that the results are totally irrelevant, but no one has ever demonstrated unequivocally that it is safe.

It is, in fact, impossible to prove that anything is safe: vegetables contain many natural toxins, often at high levels, but we go on eating them with only occasional problems.

There are, however, some areas where the evidence is unambiguous. Hundreds of people, particularly the young and the elderly, are regularly killed by microbial food poisoning. This is only reported when there is a particularly dramatic outbreak.

You correctly suggest that our ministerial nannies are taking more treats off the menu. I suggest that they would do better to look to the real risks and tackle microbial infection throughout the distribution chain, banning such things as soft cheese from unpasteurised milk if necessary. This may be less newsworthy and politically less dramatic, but the public benefit would be significant.

Yours sincerely,
A. W. HOLMES
(President, Institute of Food
Science and Technology, 1995-97),
1 Tanners Dean,
Leatherhead KT22 8RU.

From Mrs Angela Neath

Sir, I read with dismay the letters you published under the heading "Anger over latest ban on beef" (December 5).

My brother, Chris Warne, died of new variant CJD on October 20. Anyone who had witnessed his deterioration and death would find it hard to sustain such moral indignation over their "right" to eat beef on the bone.

Chris may have been *only* the twenty-second person to die of this disease, but many thousands of others may already have been infected, their symptoms not yet evident because of the long incubation period.

When we come to realise the true extent of this disease won't we then be asking why so little was done so late to protect us?

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA NEATH,
108 Northwood Lane,
Darley Dale DE4 2HS.
December 5.

From Ms Judith Jackson

Sir, It is claimed that we have a listening government. Please will it listen to me.

Our local butcher sells only organic meat. The beef he sells comes from a Scottish herd which has never had contact with BSE and is processed by an abattoir known personally to the butcher.

If beef on the bone is to be banned, the farmers, abattoirs and butchers producing and selling organic beef will be penalised for doing everything right. And their customers will be denied the right to support them.

This is clearly unjust.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH JACKSON,
6 Bovingdon Road, SW6 2AP.
December 9.

Yacht and youth

From Mrs Elizabeth Gould

Sir, Having just watched on television the magnificent and moving ceremony of decommissioning the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, an enduring symbol of British craftsmanship, pride and history, I can't help but compare it with today's front-page picture of Chris Evans and Zoe Ball leaving a celebrity party (one of several) held at 10 Downing Street by new Labour, courtesy of the taxpayer.

I certainly know which I'd prefer my taxes to go towards.

Yours sincerely,
E. A. GOULD,
Globetrotter,
Lower Plantation, Loudwater,
Rickmansworth WD3 4PQ.
December 11.

Body and soul

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN, Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, A ship is its ship's company. *Britannia* has been a centre of excellence because of the quality of the people who have served on board. With the crew departed, all that is left is a soulless steel relic, not even worth a place in a museum.

Princess Anne and Lord Callaghan of Cardiff (letter, December 11) are right. Let the ship be broken up or sunk, and the sooner the better.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE,
Editor,
Jane's Fighting Ships,
Foundry House,
Kingsley, Bordon GU35 9LY.
December 11.

Defamation law

From Mr Richard Parkes

Sir, Mr George Stern's lament (letter, December 3) that "now even imprisoned rapists can sue for libel those who seek the help of the authorities" seems to imply that some anomalous rule of defamation law has sanctioned this controversial litigation. This may have given a misleading impression.

With limited exceptions (vexatious litigants are an example), everyone, even a convicted criminal, is entitled to access to the courts. In this case the defendant tried unsuccessfully to strike out the plaintiff's claim by arguing that a defence of absolute privilege was bound to succeed. The principle that an order striking out a claim will be made only where an action is bound to fail (and the Court of Appeal held that this was not such a case) makes excellent sense and applies to civil litigation generally.

Qualified privilege is a complete defence for anyone who speaks his mind honestly to the authorities, even if mistaken; the wider the scope of the immunity conferred by absolute privilege, the greater the risk that it will be abused by the unscrupulous.

In so far as one can judge from the reports, the defendant's prospects of successfully defending the claim on the basis of qualified privilege remain good.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PARKES,
5 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1R 5BP.
richardparkes@compuserve.com

Korea's 'disgrace'

From Mr James Kirkham

Sir, The media here in South Korea are portraying their current economic difficulties as being equivalent to the "National Day of Disgrace" in 1905, when the country was forcibly annexed by the Japanese. The Korean people are now, apparently, under a period of "economic colonisation" which can be solved, and could have been avoided, if hardworking Korean people hadn't rewarded themselves for their efforts with a bottle of Scottish malt or an Italian dress.

It would seem that international trade is fine — as long as it is other nations buying Korean goods. Labour and civil organisations are threatening disruption to prevent the implementation of the IMF package, thus carrying on the tradition of burying heads in the sand and hoping the problem will go away.

For 40 years the politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen of South Korea have imported as much know-how and experience as was necessary to develop their own manufacturing industries, based on established Western models. Why are they so unwilling to import similarly proven methods for their finance industries?

Yours etc,
JAMES KIRKHAM,
Hyundai Apt 101-1005,
No Du Ri 1154,
Wando-Eup, Wando-Gun,
Chonnam 537-800, South Korea.
wandojames@yahoo.com
December 6.

Single mothers

From Mrs Verney Sergeant

Sir, Of purely academic interest, you will understand — but what name was given to all those mothers (letters, December 9) left without husbands for the duration of both world wars? How did they manage without "kids' clubs", crèches, etc? Did they whinge their way through every news broadcast, or did they, as I suspect, get on with it stoically, without most of today's "necessities"?

Thank God that they were made of sterner stuff.

Yours faithfully,
VERNEY SERGEANT,
70 Ravenswood Drive,
Solihull B91 3LP.
donandverney@compuserve.com
December 11.

Oaths of allegiance

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I was sorry to see my old friend Keith Kyle repeat the myth that Charles Bradlaugh, MP, was excluded from Parliament between 1880 and 1886 because "he would not swear on the Bible" [letter, December 4: also letter, December 6]. On the contrary he expressed himself consistently ready to do so; indeed on several occasions tried to do so; and it was the combined votes of Liberals as well as Conservatives who did not wish to see a militant atheist among their ranks that prevented a duly elected MP from taking his seat for five and a half years.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown House, Avebury SN8 1RF.
December 5.

Differing lifestyles in rural society

From the Reverend Nick Read

Sir, Mr Martin Pawley (letter, December 8) states that "new country life hinges on private transport and electronic communications. Both are improving all the time". I would like to state the case for old country life.

In the various studies of rural deprivation carried out in the last decade, the analysis inevitably shows that those who suffer most from the decline in rural services are those who don't have private transport, cannot afford or do not have access to public transport and who often subsist on an old age pension after a lifetime of low-paid employment in "traditional" rural jobs.

They are also, sadly, one of the most neglected and hidden elements of rural society, precisely because the articulate and wealthy who enjoy "new country life" have no need of the services (local shops, public transport, low-cost housing) which these people have to rely on and therefore do not complain when the services disappear.

Rural poverty and deprivation often exist in close proximity to those enjoying a wealthy lifestyle, in a way not found in the urban context. Unfortunately, this only serves to mask the extent of deprivation, since survey data (of incomes, private car ownership, etc) will inevitably reflect the fact that many rural areas contain disproportionately wealthy people.

One of the saddest facts of modern rural life is the inability of those who live alongside deprivation either to recognise it or to work to overcome it.

Yours faithfully,
NICK READ
(Director),
Rural Stress Information Network,
Arthur Rank Centre,
Stoneleigh Park CV8 2LZ.
December 8.

From Mrs J. E. B. Marsh

Sir, An elderly beneficiary of life in Biddestone, Wiltshire, I challenge your report of December 4. Car-less since 1988, my husband and I are far from being "prisoners in the village, unable to buy so much as a newspaper or a loaf of bread".

Our four buses a week give access to Chippenham and Bath as well as Corsham, and two hours in Corsham on market day is scarcely "just enough time to buy a loaf of bread". Additionally, volunteer drivers of Village Link cover shopping as well as medical appointments, and neighbours give lifts freely.

Just as the parish churches have gained from grouping, so will the children who meet those from other villages at the new school in Yatton Keynell two miles away.

True, we have no candlestick-makers, but the candle of community burns brightly in our villages.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH St BARBE MARSH,
St Peter's House,
Biddestone, Chippenham SN14 7DG.
December 6.

From Mr John Copeland

Sir, Mr Pawley writes from The Old Rectory. This address, along with The Old Post Office, The Old School House, The Old Brewery and The Old Forge, serves to illustrate the decline of our villages as living and working communities, and their sad consequent dependence on the neighbouring towns for employment, entertainment and emporia.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COPELAND,
1 The Hall Yard,
Burton-by-Lincoln LN1 2RD
johncopeland@clara.net
December 8.

Court manners

From the Reverend Ian Gregory

Sir, I am disheartened by your front-page story (December 9) that Tim Henman has taken lessons on court manners from John McEnroe, and intends now to snarl his way to the top by being more aggressive.

Admittedly there is public taste for nasty behaviour, and if we are now denied public executions we will watch violent films and applaud the likes of McEnroe. But success achieved at the cost of civilised behaviour is worth very little.

Old-fashioned it may be, but Grantland Rice was pointing the way forward to man's continuing evolution when he wrote in 1941:

> For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes — not that you won or lost — but how you played the Game.

Yours etc,
IAN GREGORY
(Founder, Campaign for Courtesy),
18 The Avenue, Basford,
Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 0LY.
December 9.

Worm's eye view

From Mr P. W. Grafton

Sir, How odd that excrement should lead to an increment in the supposed evolutionary period (report, December 11).

Yours faithfully,
P. W. GRAFTON,
57 Padbrook,
Limpsfield, Oxted RH8 0DZ.
December 11.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Fleet, today visited *HMS Ocean* at GEC Marine VSEL Barrow Shipyard, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Her Majesty was represented by the Reverend Canon John Sykes (Chaplain to the Queen) at the Funeral of the Reverend Canon Ian Knox (Chaplain to The Queen) which was held in St Peter's Parish Church, Huddersfield, this afternoon.

Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit) this morning, on behalf of The Queen, presented the Lord Denning with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning visited Holyhead Carers Outreach, Holyhead Centre, Kingsland, Holyhead, Anglesey, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwynedd (Mr Meuric Rees).

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon launched the Carers Support Initiative with the Samaritans at Gwynedd Carers Centre, Ffford Deiniol, Bangor.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 12: The Prince of Wales, President, this afternoon attended a ceremony at the Limelight Club, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1, to launch The Prince's Trust Millennium Awards to groups of young people involved in community projects throughout the United Kingdom.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 12: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Kenneth MacMillan Choreographic Competition at the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 12: The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, the University of Surrey, this afternoon presided at the conferment of degrees ceremony, Guildford, Surrey.

Patron

The Prince of Wales has become Patron of the Royal Television Society.

School news

Salisbury Cathedral School
Mr Robert Thackray, BSc, has been appointed Headmaster of Salisbury Cathedral School from April 1998. Mr Thackray is currently Headmaster of St James' Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School, Bury St Edmunds.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Sir Thomas Dunne, Lord-Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester, is to be Lord-Lieutenant for the separate counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire on the formation of those counties on April 1, 1998.

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

Professor Michael Hebbert, Professor of Town Planning, Manchester University, has been awarded the commission's 1997 Fellowship in the Built Environment. He will study "Urbanism".

Luncheon

Australia & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK
Sir Martin Laing, Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Australian & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr Brian Harris, presided.

The High Commissioner for New Zealand and the Executive Director of the Swire Group were among those present.

Memorial services

Joyce Lady Heathcoat Amory
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Joyce Lady Heathcoat Amory (Joyce Wethered), golfer, was held yesterday at St Peter's, Tiverton. The Rev Anthony Gibson officiated. Sir Ian Heathcoat Amory, nephew, and Mrs David Cavender, niece, read the lessons. Countess Cairns, cousin, read from *An Englishwoman's Garden* and Mr David Heathcoat Amory, MP, gave an address. Among others present were:

Brigadier Roderick Heathcoat Amory (brother-in-law), Lady (Ian) Heathcoat Amory, Mr William Heathcoat Amory, Mr Harry Heathcoat Amory, Mr Patrick Heathcoat Amory, Mr Benjamin Heathcoat Amory, Mr and Mrs Charles Heathcoat Amory, Mr Simon Heathcoat Amory, Mr Toby Heathcoat Amory, Mr David Cavender, Mrs David Heathcoat Amory, Lady Beck, Mrs Harmony Heathcoat Amory, Lady Jacomb, Lady Spearman, Sir Jack Boles (also representing the Director-General, National Trust) and Lady Anne Boles.

Lady Margaret Fortescue, Lady Anne Cowdray, Sir John and Lady Palmer, Mr and Mrs Anthony Goodall, Mr and Mrs Michael Hickson, Mr Dudley Dodd, representatives of the Royal North Devon Golf Club, Royal St George's Golf Club, Devon County Golf Union, the Ladies Golf Union, the English Ladies Golfing Association, Woking Golf Club, Woking Ladies Golf Club, Surrey Ladies Golf Association, West Surrey Golf Club, Tiverton Golf Club, Worplesdon Golf Club, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews, the Royal Horticultural Society and many other friends.

John Wimber
A celebration of the life and ministry of John Wimber, International Director of Vineyard Churches, was held yesterday in Westminster Central Hall. The Rev John Mumford, National Director of the Association of Vineyard Churches in the United Kingdom and Ireland, Mr Gerald Coates, Leader of Pioneer People, Mr Roger Forster, Leader of Ichthus Churches, the Rev Sandy Millar, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Brompton, the Right Rev David Pytches, Mr Terry Virgo, Leader of New Frontiers Churches, Mr Mike Pilavachi, Leader of Soul Survivor Youth Church, Watford, and Mr Charles Whitehead, Lay Head of Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal, paid tribute.

Mr Alan Harper
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Alan Harper, immediate past Chairman of the Baltic Exchange, held yesterday at the Church of St Katharine Cree, Leadenhall Street.

The Rev Hugh Rom, Chaplain to the Baltic Exchange, officiated. Mrs Selina Porter, daughter, and Mr Nigel Brook of Andre (UK) read the lessons. Miss Carol Harper, daughter, read *Crossing the Bar* by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Mr Eric Shawyer, Chairman of the Baltic Exchange, gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Harper (widow), Mrs P M Harper (mother), Miss Anita Harper (daughter), Mr Richard Porter (son-in-law), Mr and Mrs D Harper (brother and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs Peter Bennett (brother-in-law and sister), Mr and Mrs David Sears (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr Stephen Bennett, Miss L Sears, Mr and Mrs Owen Reid.

Sir Carron Greig, Mr Jim Buckley (chief executive and secretary, Baltic Exchange) with past and present members of staff: Miss June Mendoza, Mr Alderman Clive Martin (Aldgate Ward), Mr Tony Scott, Mr A Hammond, Mr Mike Guthrie, Mr Peter Harding, Mr Derek Walker, Mr Anthony Reardon-Smith, Mr Ben Savage (Jackson Son and Co (London)), Mr John Chard (Chamber of Shipping), the Prime Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, Ms Sylvia Moys (Lloyd's Register of Shipping and the Aldgate Ward Club).

Mr Derek Prentice (London Maritime Association), Mr John Page (Pegasus), Mr Colin Souter (Budamar Shipping (London)), Mr Peter Kitching (SSY), Mr R D Hunt (Howe Robinson), Mr Basil Mavroleon (Bray Shipping Co), Mr Clifford A.L. Clark (J A Finzi Layman Clark & Co), Mr Demi Pangalos (Oinoussian Maritime), Mr Tom Yuille (Inbro Holdings), Mr Jack Gilbert (RNLI), Mr Terry Stone (Ernst & Young), Mr John Faraclas (*Shipping International Monthly Review*), representatives of GAFTA and many other friends and former colleagues.

Dinners

London University
The Princess Royal, Chancellor of London University, with Lord Woolf, Pro-Chancellor, and Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-Chancellor, presided at a dinner held last night at Senate House to mark the anniversary of Foundation Day. Honorary degrees were conferred on Lord Annan, Chief Emeka Anyoaku, Lord Butterfield, Dame Felicity Lott, Sir Frank Kermode, FBA, and Mrs Mary Robinson. Among those present were:

The Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland, Lord Flowers, FRS, Baroness Fookes, Sir James Black, Sir Christopher France, Dame Beryl Grey, Sir William Stubbs, Sir Norman Wooding, Mr John Davidson, Professor Roderick Floud, Dr Malcolm Godfrey and Professor Frank Gould.

Fan Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was entertained at a dinner of the Fan Makers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Nicholas Crispin, Master, presided. Sir Peter Davis and Mr Michael Davis, Foreign Warden, also spoke. The Lord Mayor was presented with a cheque for the British Diabetic Association and the National Children's Homes, his joint charities, by the Master afterwards.

Old Oundelian Club
Mr Richard Wilson, President of the Old Oundelian Club, presided at the annual London dinner held last night at the RAF Club. Mr David McMurray, Headmaster of Oundle School, and Mr John Holmes also spoke.

Westgate Chambers, Lewes
The Chief Justice of Ireland and the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords attended the Tenth Anniversary Dinner of Westgate Chambers held on Saturday, December 6, at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton. Mr John Collins, Head of Chambers, was the host. Among others present were:

Judge Richard Brown (Resident Judge in Lewes), Judge Wrintmore (Resident Judge in Chichester), Judge John Gower, QC, Judge Haward, Judge Scott-Gall, Judge Lloyd, Judge Carney (of the Irish High Court), Mr Christopher Clarke, QC, Mr John Aspinall, QC, Mr Paul Garlick, QC, and Mr Gerry Bermingham, MP.

Gray's Inn

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith has been elected Treasurer of Gray's Inn for 1998 in succession to Judge Esyr Lewis, QC. Mr Martin Collins, QC, has been elected Vice-Treasurer.

Elections

Lady Appleyard, Mr John R.H. Bond and Baroness Perry of Southwark have been elected Governors of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth. Mr Tim Rix has been co-opted to its Board of Governors.

Appointment

Mr Karamjit Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Ethnic Minorities Advisory Committee, has been appointed to the Board of the Judicial Studies Board for two years from December 1.

RICHARD POHLE

Frances Ochoa and Julian de Bosdari, of Central London, who recently announced their engagement

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: The Aga Khan, 61; Sir Terence Beckett, former Director-General, CBI, 74; Sir Ross Belch, chairman, Almamara Shipping, 77; Mr Howard Brenton, playwright, 55; General Arnold Brown, former international leader and general, Salvation Army, 84; Lord Bullock, 83; Sir Brian Fall, Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 60; Mr John Francome, racing commentator and former jockey, 45; Mr Walter Girven, former Chief Constable, Wiltshire, 59; Mr Chris Gorringe, chief executive, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon, 52; Miss Anouska Hempel (Lady Weinberg), hotelier and designer, 56; Dr Douglas Latto, former chairman, British Safety Council, 84; Mr Robert Lindsay, actor, 48; Professor Sir William McCrea, FRS, astronomer, 93; Mr Alec Monk, former chairman, The Gateway Corporation, 55; Mr J.W.H. Morgan, former chairman, AMEC, 70; Sir Brian Pitman, banker, 66; Mr Christopher Plummer, actor, 68; Sir Humphrey Prideaux, former chairman, Morland and Company, 82; Lord Renwick of Clifton, 60; Mr George Shultz, former American Secretary of State, 77; Professor G.D. Sims, former Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, 71; Mr Bruce Steinberg, former chief executive officer, UK Gold Television, 41; Major-General Sir David Thorne, 64; General Sir Peter Whiteley, 77.

TOMORROW: Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, 68; Professor Richard Cassilly, operatic tenor, 70; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, 85; the Right Rev J.B.R. Grindrod, former Archbishop of Brisbane and Primate of Australia, 78; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, 82; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 62; Sir Malcolm McIntosh, civil servant, 52; Mr C.R. Morris, former MP, 71; Mr Alberto Morrocco, painter, 80; Sir John Osborn, former MP, 75; Dame Ruth Railton, founder, National Youth Orchestra, 82; Mr Stan Smith, former tennis player, 51; Sir Simon Towneley, former Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 76; Miss Rosalyn Tureck, conductor, 83; Mr Peter Williams, rugby player, 37

Church in Wales

Diocese of Monmouth
The Rev Jessie Marguerite Tarie Carlyon, former Assistant Curate of Pontypool, to be Vicar of Pontypool.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L.G. Antoniazzi and Miss S.L. Huckson
The engagement is announced between Luciano Giovanni, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Giovanni Antoniazzi, of Crouch Hill, London, and Simone Louise, only daughter of Mr Derek Huckson, of West Wickham, Kent, and Mrs Sandra Huckson, of Dulwich, London.

Mr J.R. Banister and Miss N.J. Sixsmith
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Banister, of Westerham, Kent, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Sixsmith, of Harpsden, Oxfordshire.

Mr J. Fordham and Miss E.M. Sanderson
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Mr Clifford Fordham and of Mrs Ruth Fordham, of Kempston, Bedfordshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sanderson, of Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire.

Mr A.J. Jones and Miss K. Fraser
The engagement is announced between Aaron, elder son of Mr and Mrs Barry Jones, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, and Kathryn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Fraser, of Albury, NSW, Australia.

Mr O.J. Lane Fox and Miss H.S.C. Madden
The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr Martin Lane Fox and Mrs Prue Lane Fox, both of London, and Harriet, daughter of Mr Patrick Madden, of Kencot, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Cristina Madden, of Fulham, London.

Mr T. Horsler and Ms L. Borrell
The marriage will take place today at 4pm, at Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill, London, between Tim, youngest son of Mr Paul Horsler and the late Rhonda Horsler, of Plymouth, Devon, and Laura, daughter of the late John Martin and of Mrs Harry Johnson, of Boscombe, Dorset.

The bride will be given in marriage by her godfather, Mr Montgomery Moose, of Hudson Bay, Canada.

A reception will be held at 79 Dukes Avenue, Muswell Hill and the honeymoon will be spent in Dartmouth.

Mr A.P. Low and Miss J.E. Hutchings
The engagement is announced between Adrian, second son of Mr and Mrs P.J.B. Low, of Dubai, UAE, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.B. Hutchings, of Rogate, West Sussex.

Mr D.L.R. McCrae and Miss P. Trounce
The engagement is announced between Duncan, elder son of Dr A.W.R. McCrae and Mrs J.M. McCrae, of Oxford, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Trounce, of Little Budworth, Cheshire.

Mr J.M. Nott and Miss L. Modder
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry Nott, of Priors Marston, Warwickshire, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Modder, of Foxhall, Suffolk.

Marriage

Mr H.G. Rhodes and Mrs M.E.C. Floyd
The marriage took place quietly on November 28, in Sale, between Geoffrey Rhodes and Madeline Floyd.

Anniversaries

TODAY — BIRTHS: William Drummond of Hawthornden, poet, Hawthornden, Lothian, 1585; Ernst von Siemens, electrical engineer, Lenthe, Germany, 1816; Balthazar Vorster, Prime Minister of South Africa 1966-78 and President 1978-79, Jamestown, 1915.

DEATHS: Maimonides, philosopher, Egypt, 1204; Samuel Johnson, writer, critic and lexicographer, London, 1784; Robert John Strutt, 4th Baron Rayleigh, physicist, Terling Place, Essex, 1947.

Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand, 1642.

The Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee were victorious at the Battle of Fredericksburg, 1862.

Malta, GC, was proclaimed a republic, 1974.

TOMORROW — BIRTHS: Nostradamus (Michel de Notredame), astrologer, Saint-Remy, 1503; Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, Admiral, Annsfield, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, 1775; King George VI, reigned 1936-52, York Cottage, Sandringham, 1895; Paul Eluard, poet, Paris, 1895.

DEATHS: Sir John Oldcastle, alleged heretic, "hung and burnt hanging", London, 1417; King James V of Scotland, reigned 1513-42, Falkland, Fife, 1542; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, Hamburg, 1788; George Washington, 1st American President 1789-97, Washington, 1799; Albert, Prince Consort, Windsor Castle, 1861; George Hudson, the "railway king", London, 1871; Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, Prime Minister 1923-24, 1924-29 and 1935-37, Astley, Lancashire, 1947; Will Fyfe, character comedian, St Andrews, 1947; William Slim, 1st Viscount Slim, Field Marshal, Governor-General of Australia 1953-60, London, 1970.

Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole, 1911.

ON THIS DAY

December 13, 1975

Picasso was one of those comparatively rare artists whose pictures make a fortune during their own lifetime. Even so, his picture Le Rêve, *which was bought for $7,000 in 1941, sold last month for $48.4 million.*

PICASSO'S HEIRS WILL SHARE £650M.

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, December 12

The settlement of the estate of Pablo Picasso, which was expected to take several years, will be completed in about three months. His heirs — his widow, Jacqueline, grandchildren, Marina and Bernard, and three natural children, Claude, Paloma and Maya, will share a fortune estimated at some 6,000m francs (about £650m).

Maître Pierre Zecri, the judicial administrator of the estate, who has successfully concluded the negotiations conducted by counsel for the heirs, refuses to disclose the breakdown of the estate. Under French law the widow must receive a quarter of the total plus a quarter in trust, the grandchildren a quarter, and each of the three natural children a twelfth.

The drawings, paintings and sculptures which were inventoried in the painter's studio after his death at Mougins in April, 1973, were insured for 3,000m francs during their transfer to Paris, and are deposited in the safes of several banks.

In addition to this, Picasso's fortune included two chateaux, two estates in Provence and shares and bank deposits which account for some 40 per cent of the total.

His production was enormous, and, for each of his 15,000 authenticated pictures, there are dozens of sketches worth themselves several tens of thousands of francs each. The tradesmen of Antibes, with whom he dealt, often forebore from cashing his cheques; the signature on them has proved worth between 5,000 and 6,000 francs.

In his drawers at Mougins were found wads of notes and cheques bound by elastic which he had forgotten to cash, for a total of 150,000 francs. One of the charwomen he employed is living very comfortably on the occasional sale of sketches which he gave her from time to time.

Paul Picasso, the son of the painter, had received 800,000 francs as an advance on his share of the estate. He had bought a Rolls-Royce upholstered with leopard skins, for 350,000 francs, and blown almost all the rest by the time he died last July in hospital.

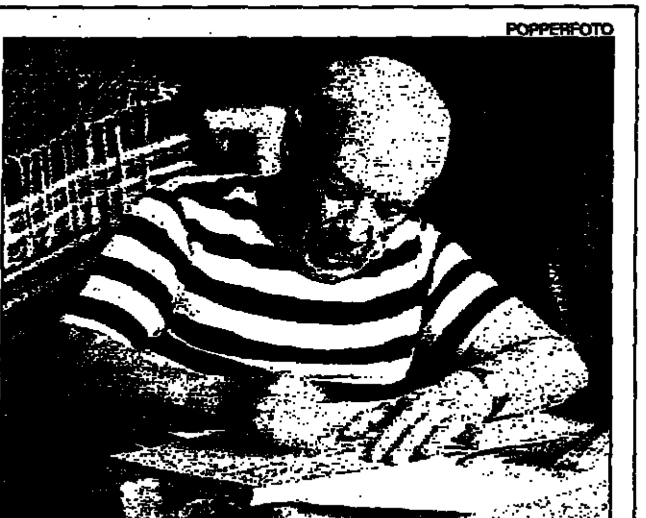
Marina, the daughter he had before his divorce from his first wife, Emilienne, became one of the heirs together with her half-brother Bernard. Her brother, Pablito, had committed suicide, by swallowing a dose of chlorine because he was not allowed to pay his respects to the remains of the painter.

The three natural children owe their share of the estate to the law of January, 1972, and to the long legal battle which they successfully fought to have their rights as heirs recognised.

In order to ward off astronomic death duties, Picasso bequeathed to the nation his personal collection of pictures, now in the Louvre, which includes two works by Le Nain, one by Chardin, one by Courbet, four by Corot, seven by Renoir, four by Douanier Rousseau, seven by Matisse, four by Cézanne, to mention only the most important.

But if all the works of the master which his heirs will divide among themselves were put on the market at the same time, there would inevitably be a dramatic fall in their value.

POPPERFOTO



Prolific painter: Pablo Picasso at work at his home in Cannes in 1960

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But you, my friends, must make your most sacred faith the foundation of your lives. Continue to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jude verse 20.

BIRTHS

BAILEY - On December 10th to Alexander and Cheryl, a son.

BARRETT - Andrew and Deborah are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Georgia May. Georgia was born at 10.44pm on October 31st 1997 at Womens College Hospital in Toronto. Both families are overjoyed and are eagerly awaiting Georgia's first visit to England in February.

BARRY - Anne (née Tully) and Kevin Barry are proud to announce the arrival in Eastbourne of Alexander George William on 11th December. A first grandchild for William and Barbara Tully of Willand, Devon.

CLIVE - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Rosemary (née Moore) and Barry, a daughter, Iona.

COLBOURNE - On 8th December, to Penny (née Whiting) and Ray, a daughter, Taliesen Bryher.

DERANIYA - On December 7th at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Mandy (née Davey) and David, a son, James Khairo, a brother for Max.

FARRELL - On November 24th at Greenwich Hospital, CT, USA, to Karen and John, a daughter, Isabella and a son, Thomas, a sister and brother for Helena.

GURYEL - On December 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Oya and Tigin, a son, Tolga Tugay, a brother for Tanya.

HAWLEY - To Robert and Teresa (née Holbrook), a son, Stuart Kenneth Macdonald, on December 6th 1997.

LELLO - On Tuesday 4th November 1997 at Salisbury District Hospital, to Helen (née Simpson) and Mark, a son, Alexander Edward Henry John, a brother for Sebastian.

LOMAS - On 11th December 1997 at Ulleval Hospital, Oslo, to Gro (née Christoffersen) and Hugh John (Jack), a son, Alexander, a brother for Christina, Samantha, Deborah and Victoria.

MOREL-HANSON - On December 5th 1997, to Catherine (née Morel) and Martin, a daughter, Felicity Gisele Marjorie.

PROETT - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Noriko and Michael, a daughter, Zoe Marika.

SHOHET - On December 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Vered and Yousif, a daughter, Danielle, a sister for Aviel and Lyella.

SHONE - On December 9th, to Gillian (née Bielkamp) and Sam, a son, Robert, a brother for Edward.

TUCKER - On December 3rd in the RSCH, Guildford, to Alison (née Campbell) and Giles, twin sons, William Thomas Campbell and Hugo James Stewart.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BILINSKI - Josef with me in my heart, love you, keep safe Joanna.

DEATHS

ATKINS - On December 10th 1997 peacefully at Bridgwater Hospital, Charles Farquhar aged 90 years of Woolabington (Ex Kenya Administration), much loved husband of Jane, a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

BROKE - Susan (née Bonsey) peacefully on 11th December, beloved wife of Robert, devoted mother of Simon and Robin and much loved mother-in-law and grandmother. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's Church, Holme Hale, Norfolk, on Friday 19th December at 11.30 am. No flowers. Donations if desired to Holme Hale Church may be sent c/o W.C. Littleproud & Son Funeral Directors, Bradenham, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 7QU.

BUDDEN - Paul Hanson, late Lt. Colonel R.E. and Bursar of King's College, Taunton. Died 10th December 1997 peacefully at home after a long and courageously fought battle. Man of honour and dearly loved husband of Caroline and father of Francis and Philip. Funeral at King's College Chapel, Taunton on Thursday 18th December at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton c/o A.W. Waterjohns & Son, Funeral Directors, Clare Street, North Petherton, Somerset TA6 6RG.

CALEY - Sheila peacefully in hospital on 10th December, lovingly missed by her family and many friends. Funeral Service at St Anne's, Banstead, at 10.30 am Wednesday 17th December. Family flowers only. Donations to The Stella Hancock Driving Group c/o Longhurst, 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom, KT19 8RY.

CORRY-SMITH - Elspeth Clare died in Cambridge on 10th December 1997 peacefully in her sleep in her 80th year, only daughter of Frank Corry-Smith and Jessie Alice Corry-Smith (née Tanquery-Willaume) of Bedford. Good friend of Margaret Boys of Swavesey and her brother. Funeral Service at Fen Drayton Church on Friday 19th December 1997 at 4pm, followed by committal at Cambridge City Crematorium. No flowers please but donations for Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research may be sent to Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge CB4 3EJ.

FERDINANDO - Herbert Benny aged 90 peacefully in Exeter Hospital on December 12th. Much loved husband of Helde, father and grandfather. Funeral private. Thanksgiving Service on January 21st at 12 noon at All Saints, Rackenford, Tiverton, Devon.

GOSS - The Very Reverend Thomas Ashworth (Tom) formerly Dean of Jersey passed peacefully away at the General Hospital, Jersey, on Wednesday 10th December 1997 aged 86 years. Beloved husband of the late Pat, much loved father of Simon and Jo. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. By request no flowers, letters or cards please. All enquiries please to H.W. Maillard & Son Ltd. Funeral Directors, tel: (01534) 37291.

LATOY - Agnes Matilda died peacefully at Bromley Hospital on 1st December aged 81. Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday 16th December at Beckenham Crematorium 1.30 pm.

LAWRENCE - Doris Kathleen. On 10th December 1997 peacefully in hospital. Beloved wife of John, much loved mother of Derek and Colin. Funeral 18th December 1997 Brunswick Park Road Crematorium at 3.30 pm to which all friends are respectfully invited.

PHILLIPS - Michael Arthur, peacefully in London on 11th December. Devoted father of Sarah, Christopher and Emma, grandfather of Anthony, Jonathan, Harry and Kitty. Remembered with love by all who knew him. Funeral Service at Chelsea Old Church at 11 am on Friday 19th December. Private family cremation afterwards. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon (0171) 937-0757.

ROSE - Rita May died peacefully on 9th December 1997 at Guy's Hospital, London, after a short illness bravely borne. Cremation at Vinters Park Crematorium, Maidstone, Kent, on Monday 22nd December 1997 at 12 noon. Flowers or donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses c/o K.R. Sills Funeral Directors, Kenwood High Street, Cranbrook, Kent.

SPON-SMITH - On 10th December 1997 at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Alan Witterick, widower of much loved Joy, beloved husband of Sue, father of Robin, Jill and John, grandfather of Jolyon, Phillip, James, Olivia, Christopher and Charlie. Funeral at Eltham Crematorium on Friday 19th December at 11.15 am. Family flowers only; donations if desired to Alzheimer's Disease Society (Bromley Branch) c/o W. Uden & Sons, funeral directors, High Street, Sidcup, Kent.

THORP - Jean Norma peacefully at the Royal Marsden Hospital on 11th December after a long illness courageously borne. Private funeral. Donations may be sent in Jean's memory to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

URWIN - Alan Charles Bell died suddenly in hospital after a short illness, beloved husband of Joan, father of Michael and Judith, father-in-law of John and Ros, grandfather of Simon, Nick, Robbie and Kirstie. Service at Mortlake Crematorium at 2 pm on Friday 19th December. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory to Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.

WEST - Patrick Reginald. Peacefully in the West Cornwall Hospital on 7th December 1997. Much loved husband of Marjorie, father and grandfather. Private funeral. There will be a Memorial Service in the spring.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

EDELMAN - Maurice Edelman MP. Remembered devotedly on December 14th and every day with gratitude and pride by his wife Tilli and daughters Sonia and Natasha.

LEIGH - Sir John (Uncle Jack) died 13th December 1992. Remembered with love and affection. Cherie and Richard.

UBBELOHDE - Paul F.R.S. Remembered and missed Grimstead SP5 3RT.

BIRTHDAYS

AJAAN, happy 40th birthday. Pieter, Elly, Marcel, Maurits (2½), Coby, Ma, Oom Jan.

BIRTHDAYS

CURREY H Foot Soldier Schoolmaster, born 14th December 1907. Congratulation Ralph!

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WANTED

BICKLEY Martin & Dawn, artists whose pictures were sold in early 1970's in Heals Gallery. Does anyone know of their pictures or whereabouts? Reply: D Cullington, Vine House, Vicarage Road, London, SW14 8RS

HELP! Young gentleman requires funding to complete Veterinary studies at Glasgow University. In the first instance please contact A C S McConnell at C & H Jefferson Solicitors Tel 01232 329545

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HAVANA cigars, box of 25, Cohiba Esplendidos. Also box of Romeo & Juliet Churchill, both sealed & stamped. Also 2 bottles of 1963 Ferreira Vintage Port. £700 the lot. 01706 653892.

HERMES handbag model Kelly, brand new, dark green morocco, £350. Chanel black quilted vanity case, brand new £250ono, Tel: 0171 828 1600

MINK Long, Fox trim, brand new, size 16 unwanted gift. £2,950 ono Tel:01785 819717

3 NEW Teletubbies (£34.47) Will sell single. Best Offers. Tel: 01224 735424.

PIRELLI calendars - rare old set in mint condition. Offers. Tel: 0181 780 1070.

SPICE GIRLS Dolls, full set in original packaging cost £84.95 best offer: 01702 588275.

TELETUBBIES 2 sets. Each cost £46.85. Best offer, can be sold separately. 0374 956130.

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TELETUBBIES(original price £50.00) Full set. Offers. Will split. Tel: 01344 486905.

TELETUBBIES(2) Bought for £10.99. Highest offer secures. Tel: 01745 821513

TELETUBBIES For sale (£12.99) Best Offers. Tel: 01843 594750.

TELETUBBIES New Set of 4. (Priced £38.03). Offers invited. Tel:0121 4781875 after 6pm

TELETUBBIES from Harrods. Complete set, will split. Best offer (cost £42.80). 01425 429657.

TELETUBBIES for sale. Duplicate gift. Cost £47.56. Best offer secures. 01536 514901

TELETUBBIE (£9.87). Offers. Tel:01932 886329

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BBC DOCUMENTARY Has finding a partner become the most important thing in the world to you. Does it seem impossible to find the man or woman of your dreams, is it something about the 90's that makes it difficult to find a soulmate? I am a BBC researcher and would like to talk to people of any age who live in London or the South-East who have joined, or wish they had the courage to join a dating agency. Please ring for a chat to help my research - all calls are confidential. Ring Deborah/Sally 0181 746 0011

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

R. J. WASHINGTON

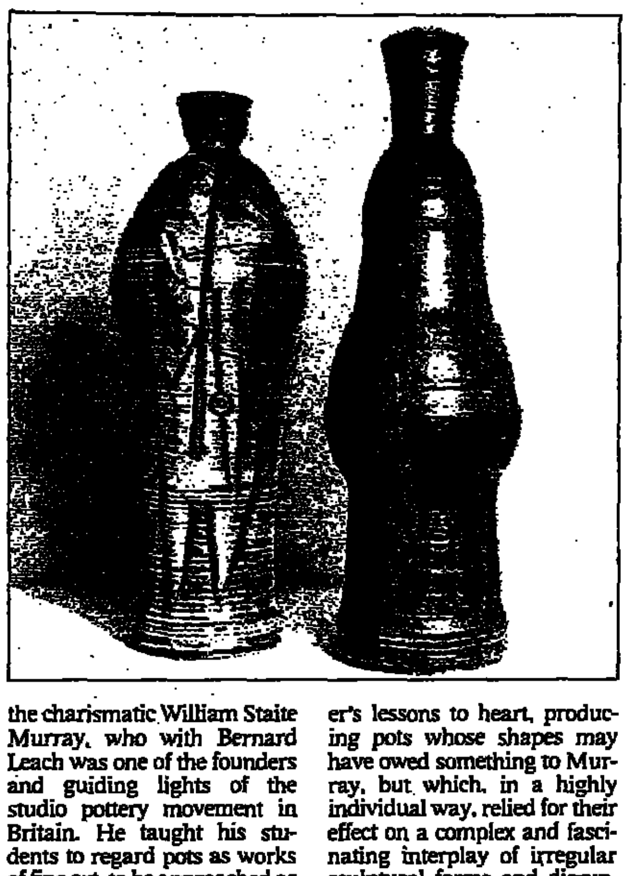
R.J. Washington, potter, died on November 17 aged 84. He was born on May 2, 1913.

BOB WASHINGTON was one of the most inventive British potters of the century, though by no means the best-known. His comparative lack of recognition may in part have been a sign of how well he succeeded in his creative aims. His distinctively decorated and powerfully sculptural pots made a convincing case for ceramics to be considered one of the fine arts. As a result, however, it was all too easy for his work to be overlooked by mainstream craft galleries, while still being viewed with suspicion or disdain by dealers in painting and sculpture.

In the main, however, Washington's low profile was of his own making. He enjoyed great early success in the 1930s, when several of his pots were acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum, and he had several further acclaimed one-man shows in the last twenty years of his life. For almost four decades in between, however, he largely vanished from public view. He continued to work, but was reluctant to exhibit and, often dissatisfied with his efforts, probably smashed more pots than he preserved. Much of his energy in the postwar years was devoted to farming and to education. He taught in art colleges in Derby, Dewsbury and Margate, serving as principal of the latter two, and was for 25 years art education inspector for Essex.

Robert Johnson Washington was born in South-East London, the son of an engineer. He showed early signs of artistic talent, and spent three years studying painting at Goldsmiths' College from 1930.

He then went to the Royal College of Art, where for a time he pursued further studies as a painter. His move into ceramics was initially prompted less by artistic considerations than by the charms of one of the pottery students, Marjorie Terry, who would later become his wife.



The RCA pottery department was run at that time by the charismatic William Staite Murray, who with Bernard Leach was one of the founders and guiding lights of the studio pottery movement in Britain. He taught his students to regard pots as works of fine art, to be approached as a form of sculpture.

Washington took his teacher's lessons to heart, producing pots whose shapes may have owed something to Murray, but which, in a highly individual way, relied for their effect on a complex and fascinating interplay of irregular sculptural forms and disruptive graphic decoration. Several pots from a 1939 exhibition were purchased by the V&A.

On the outbreak of war, Washington left the teaching post he had taken up at Derby College of Art and joined the RAF; he studied hydraulics and was subsequently involved in aircraft engineering and construction. Returning to Derby after the war, he resumed his teaching career, and went on to become principal of the art schools in Dewsbury and then Margate before settling with his family in Essex, where he became art education inspector for the county.

He maintained his own studio, and his work was exhibited as part of the Festival of Britain, but his career as a potter lost impetus after the war. This was partly because of the demands placed on him by his educational work; partly because he was trying to support his family through such enterprises as growing Christmas trees and fruit and running a large chicken farm; and partly because his perfectionism meant that he was unhappy with much of the pottery he found time to produce. Fewer than 100 pieces by him are thought to survive from a thirty-year period after the war.

His artistic life resumed in earnest when he retired from other work in 1979. At his home outside Chelmsford he converted chicken sheds into a workshop and developed his earlier ideas in a series of monumental thrown pots, their anthropomorphic forms vividly offset by jaggedly distorted figurative decoration. He then moved off in fresh creative directions, constantly exploring new technical procedures and effects. At the Anatol Orient Gallery in London in 1988 he had a successful show of large, decorated wall-plaques. He later produced what he called "ceramic paintings", ceramic sculptures and painted pots.

After the death of his first wife Marjorie last year, Bob Washington married Su Lapesco, whom he had met when she was studying ceramics. She survives him with their daughter and the son of his first marriage.

SIMON JEFFES

Simon Jeffes, composer and leader of the *Penguin Café Orchestra*, died of cancer on December 10, aged 48. He was born on February 19, 1949.

Simon Jeffes was a musical adventurer who crossed boundaries with a sense of fun. He started as an avant-garde composer but through his Penguin Café Orchestra went on to develop an engaging musical Esperanto that made his work almost impossible to categorise, working with everyone from the Sex Pistols to the Royal Ballet.

He once described his eclectic musical vision as catering for an audience capable of enjoying Wilson Pickett, Beethoven, the Rolling Stones, choral music from West Africa, Bach, Stravinsky, Irish bagpipe music and even Abba on the odd occasion. His music embraced them all, frequently at one and the same time.

Born in Sussex, he spent some of his early childhood in Canada but returned to Britain to attend school in Devon. Very much a product of the late 1960s, Jeffes studied classical guitar under Julian Byzantine and Gilbert Biberian at the Royal Academy and played in various avant-garde groups including the Omega Players. He was influenced by the minimalists but soon rejected the world of experimental composition as lacking musical nourishment.

He claimed subsequently to have conceived the idea of the *Penguin Café Orchestra* while delirious with food poisoning in the south of France in 1972. The next day he felt better and went to the beach and wrote a poem that began "I am the proprietor of the Penguin Café. I will tell you things at random."

The following year he visited Japan where he began writing the sort of music that would play in the Café, performed by imagined wild, free mountain people creating sounds of a subtly dreamlike quality. The musical vision expanded further when a friend gave him a tape of African music. The effect was revelatory. "I found I was responding more to an mbira player from Zimbabwe than to avant-garde figures like Stockhausen," he said.

He formed Penguin Café Orchestra as a string band with a fluid line-up of up to seven people in late 1973; it was one of the first signings to Brian Eno's Obscure label. Jeffes also established a reputation as an arranger and collaborator. He was responsible for the strings on the bizarre version of *My Way* by Sid Vicious and tutored the pop singer Adam Ant in African drumming.

The first album *Music From The Penguin Café* appeared in 1976 and was swiftly followed by *Penguin Café Orchestra*. A third album, *Broadcasting From Home* (1984), included *Music For A Found Harmonium* which was used in the television adverts for the launch of *The Independent* newspaper in 1986.

The PCO sound was gently insidious and foot-tapping but also experimental and full of surprises. Jeffes was like a musical gypsy, skimming off anything and everything he heard. The critic Robert Sandall described Jeffes's music as sounding "like a string quartet letting its hair down at some mysteriously-located barn dance of the future". He enjoyed the description and believed it got as close as anything to capturing the music's essence.

A fourth album, *Signs Of Life* (1987) was widely regarded as their best, leading to a South Bank Show presented by Melvyn Bragg devoted to Jeffes's music. The following year he arranged some of the PCO's music for full-scale orchestra for the Royal Ballet's *Still Life at The Penguin Café*. Choreographed by David Bintley, it has remained popular in the repertoire ever since.

Jeffes's love of African music was consummated when he was asked to do some string arrangements for the Senegalese star Baaba Maal. He also worked with Ryuichi Sakamoto. The 1993 album *Union Café* continued to push the boundaries, featuring Nigel Kennedy, telephones and dripping taps. *Concert Programme* (1995), PCO's last album, was a live studio performance reworking earlier material.

Three years ago Jeffes moved to Somerset and built a new studio. He was working on a set of new compositions when he found a year ago that he had a brain tumour. Although this rendered him partly blind and reduced his ability to communicate, his mind remained fully alert and he bore his illness with unfailing good humour.

He is survived by his partner Helen Liebman and son Arthur.

ROD MILBURN

Rodney Milburn, Olympic champion and world record holder in the 110 metres hurdles, was found dead at his workplace in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on November 12 aged 47. He was born on May 18, 1950.

THE American hurdler Rod Milburn was one of the talented few in his sport to achieve what Britain's equally blessed long-jumper Mary Rand once described as "the perfect victory" — winning an Olympic Gold medal with a world record-breaking performance.

Milburn's triumph for the United States in the high hurdles at Munich in 1972 provided a much needed change in mood after the saddest ceremony in Olympic history — the memorial service for the Israeli team members killed by Palestinian terrorists in Munich earlier that week.

Though many of the 80,000 spectators found it hard to turn their minds again to sport, the explosively starting and smoothly flowing Milburn was just the man to bring cheers echoing around the stadium. With his bushy Afro haircut and bearded chin jutting aggressively forward, he lived up to his nickname of "Hot Rod" as he charged over the ten barriers.

With Milburn ahead after the first two flights, the challenge from his American team-mate Tom Hill disappeared when Hill hit a hurdle, leaving the silver medal to be won by the Frenchman Guy Dret, who would be Olympic champion in 1976 and later France's Minister for Sport.

Finishing ahead of the field by a clear metre, Milburn had an official time of 13.2 seconds, which was more accurately and electronically timed at 13.24 seconds when electronic rather than manually recorded times became mandatory. Milburn's Olympic performance was the first to be recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Born at Opelousas, Louisiana, Milburn was barely 16 when he started hurdling at Clark High School under his first coach Claude Paxton. His first big break came when he entered Southern University and received encouragement from the 1968 Olympic champion Willie Davenport and his coach Dick Hill.

Milburn was such a consistently fine competitor in an event where one brushed ankle can spell disaster that he won no fewer than 80 out of 82 spring hurdle races between 1971 and 1973. Yet he only scraped into the United States team for Munich, after hitting two hurdles in the final trials and snatching third and final qualifying place in a race so tight that just 0.1 secs covered the first six men.

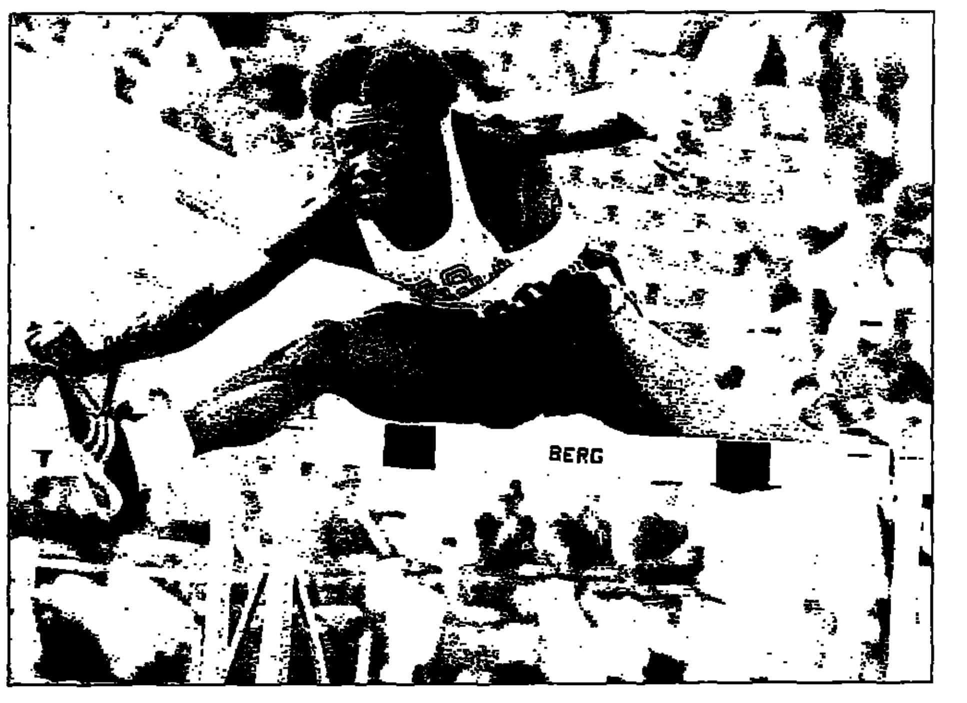
Milburn, however, never managed to cash in on his talent, being born just too early to catch the appearance money now available to top class athletes. In 1973 he tried to break into American football as a wide receiver with the Los Angeles Rams, but he quit because he felt he was not given his due worth. His next venture was in 1975 when he joined the short-lived professional athletics group of the International Track Association run by Tom O'Hara.

Having won his Olympic title in 1972, it was not until eight years later that he made a remarkable return to top-class competition, ranking sixth fastest in the world with a time of 13.40 seconds. Having been reinstated at the beginning of 1980 for amateur competition, Milburn and other former ITA athletes then found that they were not going to be allowed to compete in the US Olympic trials.

As the trials began, the pole-vaulter Steve Smith took the American athletic authorities to court and he and the shot-putter Brian Oldfield were finally allowed to compete. Milburn missed out because the hurdles had been decided before the court ruling. But he had his consolation. None of the Americans ever did make it to the Moscow Olympics, because President Carter decided to boycott the games.

Latterly Milburn had been staying with relatives in Baton Rouge and in a homeless shelter. He died from burns sustained when he apparently fell into a tank of high-temperature bleaching solution at the Georgia Pacific paper mill where he worked.

His wife, with whom he had three children, filed for divorce in July.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOWNLEY UNDERHILL Georgina Elizabeth born 14/12/1941 at Christchurch. Later put to Barnardo's children's home Portsmouth. Adopted 1947. Still feeling unwanted. Daughter requests contact with former family or friends. Please Reply to Box No 9110

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL NOTICES

POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES

Would Harriet Mary (Ettie) nee Cocks, Charles Cocks, Annie nee Cocks, Margaret (Daisy) nee Cocks, Kate (Kitty) nee Cocks, Herbert Dawson Cocks (children of Thomas Cocks and Mary Ann Cocks nee Kidd), Walter James Costello, Annie Bagreath nee Costello (children of Michael Costello and Mary Josephine Costello nee Boyce) or Elsie Dora nee Cocks (child of Charles Cocks and Fannie Cocks nee Johnson) or Lily Mary nee Costello (child of Walter James Costello and Mary Ellen Costello nee Cleary) or their issue or any person knowing their whereabouts or claiming to be related to them or Edmund Joseph Walter Cocks deceased please contact The Public Trustee of Queensland, GPO Box 2261, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001 quoting reference F144-2270456 and provide full details of their claim.

Notice is hereby given on or after the 10 March 1998 the Public Trustee intends, pursuant to Section 132 of the Public Trustee Act 1978 to proceed to distribute the assets in the estate of Edmund Joseph Walter Cocks deceased late of Brisbane in the State of Queensland having regard only to the persons whose claims have been established to his satisfaction or who then appear to him to have the best claim in law.

M. BROWNE
REGIONAL MANAGER
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE
BRISBANE SOUTH REGION

LEGAL NOTICES

PROBATE CITATION
File No 1606/97
SURROGATE'S COURT - COUNTY CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
By the grace of God Free and Independent

TO: Mrs Hazel Wachter

A petition having been duly filed by James H. Davis, who is domiciled at 1170 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588.

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Westchester County, at 140 Grand St., White Plains, New York, on January 21 1998, at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Barbara E. Hobbs lately domiciled at 3477 Stoney Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 admitting to probate a Will dated May 5, 1997, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Barbara E. Hobbs deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: James H. Davis, Esq.

Dated, Attested and Sealed, December 9, 1997.

HON Albert J Emanuelli, Surrogate.

John W Kelly, Chief Clerk.

James H. Davis Esq., 1170 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY. Telephone number (914) 245-4682.

Attorney for Petitioner Gary E. Bashian, Esq., of Counsel, 235 Main Street, White Plains, NY 10601.

Telephone number (914) 946 8800.

ROGER-VASSELIN, JEAN AUDREY of 24 Whitelands House, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 died on 10 August 1996 particulars to CHIVERS EASTON BROWN Solicitors of 381 EWELL ROAD, TOLWORTH, SURREY KT6 7DF before 14 February 1998.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ALLEN, Louisa May, Kearnsey House, 124 London Road, Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent, died 26th June 1997; particulars to Piper Smith & Basham, Solicitors, 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF, (ref: PJBB/MDS/hda/A0462) before 20th February 1998.

COOPER, Dr, Sir CHARLES ERIC DANIEL of Cranbourne Grange, Sutton Scotney, Winchester, Hampshire (formerly of Heywood Manor, Boldre, Lymington, Hampshire) died on 14 May 1984 particulars to WITHERS Solicitors of 12 GOUGH SQUARE, LONDON EC4A 3DE (Ref: RJP) before 14 February 1998.

LEGH, The Honourable Sir FRANCIS MICHAEL KCVO of Orchard House, Littleton-on-Sea, Kent died on 26 October 1984 particulars to WITHERS Solicitors of 12 GOUGH SQUARE, LONDON EC4A 3DE (Ref: RJP) before 14 February 1998.

PENFOLD, GERALD NOAH of Mount Pleasant, South Molton Road, Umberleigh, Devon died on 31 October 1997 particulars to The Executor, Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, Probate Operations, 2nd Floor, Deacon House, 192 Bye Street, Sheffield S1 3RC before 14 February 1998.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

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Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

COURT & SOCIAL

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Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply:

All notices to appear on:-
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Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to:
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Please include in all correspondence:
a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent,
a daytime and home telephone number and address.

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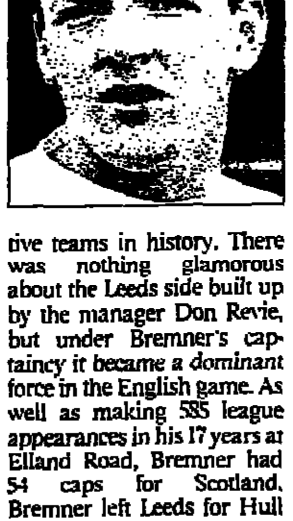
MILESTONES

Billy Bremner, Leeds United and Scotland footballer, died of a heart attack on December 7 aged 54. He was born on December 9, 1942.

Billy Bremner was one of the most respected and even feared footballers of his generation. A committed and competitive player — sometimes too much so — he captained one of the most formidable and least attractive teams in history. There was nothing glamorous about the Leeds side built up by the manager Don Revie, but under Bremner's captaincy it became a dominant force in the English game. As well as making 585 league appearances in his 17 years at Elland Road, Bremner had 54 caps for Scotland. Bremner left Leeds for Hull City in 1976, then moved to Doncaster as player-manager. In 1985 he returned to manage Leeds, but three years later was sacked and returned to Doncaster.
Obituary published on December 8.



Lord Dainton, FRS, former chairman of the University Grants Committee and of the Board of the British Library, died on December 5 aged 83. He was born on November 11, 1914.

Fred Dainton brought the mind of a scientist to bear upon public affairs. A strong-willed, no-nonsense Yorkshireman, he showed great independence of mind as chairman of the University Grants Committee when Margaret Thatcher was Secretary of State for Education. As chairman of the Board of the British Library, he ensured that the new institution would be abreast of the latest technology when it opened. His years of distinguished public service followed a no less distinguished academic career as a chemist in Oxford, Cambridge and Leeds, and a period as vice-chancellor of the University of Nottingham. Created a life peer in 1984, he spoke in the House of Lords against cuts in education and science funding.
Obituary published on December 8.

George Chisholm, OBE, jazz trombonist and humorist, died on December 6 aged 82. He was born on March 29, 1915.

George Chisholm was one of the handful of British jazz musicians who became internationally famous in the prewar period. Later, as well as becoming a distinctive soloist, he also became a regular bit-part player in film and television comedy.
Obituary published on December 9.

Lord Wyatt of Weeford, former Labour MP, chairman of the Tote, 1976-97, and newspaper columnist, died on December 7 aged 79. He was born on July 4, 1918.

Though never a wholly successful political figure, Woodrow Wyatt exercised far more influence than others who were. First elected a Labour MP in 1945, he only once briefly held office, as Under-Secretary at the War Office in 1951. His parliamentary career came definitively to an end when he lost the mining seat of Bosworth to a Conservative in 1970. But his political advice was always much sought. He was a newspaper columnist for the best part of 50 years, during which time his views changed from left-wing socialism in the 1940s to support of Thatcherite Conservatism in the 1980s. He was also a pioneer of abrasive interviewing as a star reporter on *Panorama* in the 1950s. He served for 21 years as an often controversial chairman of the Horserace Totalisator Board.
Obituary published on December 9.

Shares firmer but off their highs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
584	407½	Allied Domecq†	525½	+ 2½	4.7	13.4
626	365	Bulmer (HP)	387½	..	4.8	11.9
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	45½	− 1	9.3	15.8
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	950		1.8	22.6
638	425½	Grand Met	582	− 2	3.2	18.7
639½	424	Guinness	584	− 3½	3.3	16.1
380	280	Highland Dist†	302½	− 1	3.7	14.0
336	181½	Matthew Clark	184½	..	13.9	5.8
109½	49½	Mynden W	64½		6.0	
2009¾	1368¼	SA Breweries†	1384¾	+ 16¼	2.6	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521¼	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1228¾	− 3¼	2.6	17.5
1050	710	Abbey Natl	1028	− 7	3.4	16.8
800	532½	Alliance & Leic	789	+ 16	2.6	18.5
606	388½	Allied Irish	582½	+ 2	3.1	17.2
518¾	363½	Aus. New Z	403	− 12	5.1	
4953¾	2875	Bank America†	4567½	+ 21¼		
595	351½	Bank Scotland	556	+ 4½	2.0	15.4
1800	978½	Barclays	1636	+ 9	2.6	15.6
920½	517½	Bk of Ireland	912½	+ 3	2.3	20.0
8968¾	6006¼	Citicorp	7808¾	+ 96¾		
1758¾	1268¾	Commerzbk	1668¾	+ 3½	2.8	
862½	403¼	Dai Ichi Kan Y	443¼	− 12½	0.9	.
4593¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	4165¾	+ 68¾	1.5	.
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1181¼	+ 3¾	3.1	
947½	249	Fuji Bank Y	275¾	− 8½	1.4	53.6
2369½	1272½	HSBC	1550	+ 14	3.7	12.6
2258½	1226	HSBC HK	1484	+ 34	3.9	12.0
783	507	Halifax	731	+ 1	2.5	24.8
645	483½	Irish Perm	640		2.4	17.7
860½	434	Lloyds TSB	737	1	2.4	21.5
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	807½	− 6½	4.8	.
1038	663½	Nat West	977½	+ 6½	3.8	15.4
550	449	Northern Rock	550	+ 15	2.1	21.7
790	506	Rbl Bk Scotl	765	+ 2	3.5	15.0
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	693	− 5	2.9	12.1
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
403¾	315½	Westpac	366¾	− 5½	3.9	.
373½	267½	Woolwich	314½	+ 3¼	3.1	18.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
966	695	Bass	903	+ 4	3.9	15.9
68¼	43½	Brk for the Bdr	54		4.2	11.4
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	153½		5.8	13.3
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	132		2.4	20.5
745	575½	Compass Gp	745	+ 3½	1.7	25.7
305	250	Eldridge P A	290		2.7	
356½	221	Enterprise Inns	344		3.8	
485	412	Fuller Sm 'A	432½		3.1	13.8
586	310	Greenalls Grp	407½		4.9	10.1
770	610	Greene King	702½	+ 1	3.0	14.3
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	197½	− ½	4.0	20.6
393½	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	281½		1.4	22.7
298½	213½	Hardy Hanson	225	+ 1	6.1	10.0
2850	2125	Hall J	2150	.	3.5	12.0
78	57½	Inn Business	59		1.4	9.4
357	293	Mansfield†	301	+ 2½	3.0	12.4
315½	252	Merston Thmp	267		3.9	9.3
615	457½	Morland	457½		3.7	
266½	210	Old Eng Pub	256	+ 2	1.2	30.2
47½	18½	Paramount	21½	+ 1½		
853	527½	PizzaExpress	808½		0.5	41.8
437½	310	Ramsdens (H)	340	...	1.8	30.1
378½	262½	Regent Inns	332½		1.2	26.8
130	102½	SFI	119	− 1	0.7	25.4
768½	566	Scott & New	720½	+ 5½	3.9	14.2
305	222½	Vaux Group	264½	− 2	5.4	10.9
339½	221	Wetherspoon JD	338½	+ 1	0.7	39.1
898	620	Whitbread†	864	+ 15½	3.5	14.8
706½	430	Wolvrhmptn D	476		5.0	10.5
382½	279½	Yates Bros	355½	+ ½	1.1	25.5
702½	615	Young 'A'	662½		2.9	27.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
32½	15½	AAF Inds	20			
230	170	Abbey	230		2.7	17.3
368½	237½	Allen	355½	− 3	3.2	17.3
166½	90½	Amec†	126	− 3	4.2	
512	347½	Amey	452		2.7	16.9
720	485	Andrews Sykes	697½	+ 2½	2.1	17.1
182½	111½	Ashtead	172½	− 2	1.3	23.9
48½	29½	Avonside	35½	− ½	5.3	7.4
39½	24½	Band	33½	+ 2½	4.5	15.8
64½	47½	Barcom	50		3.8	
291½	221	Barratt Devs	226½	+ 4½	5.0	11.4
210	154½	Beazer	162	+ 5½	5.1	10.4
338½	299½	Bellway†	319	+ 4	3.6	10.6
22½	16½	Bellwinch	19			8.4
52½	30	Ben Bailey	50		4.0	7.7
737¾	560½	Berkeley Gp	622	+ ½	1.9	10.9
173	125	Bell Bros	162	+ 2½	5.4	4.7
385	230	Boot (Henry)	282		1.6	11.0
129½	87½	Brandon Hire	119½	..	3.0	16.0
37½	27½	Britannia Gp	31½		3.6	6.0
159	108	Bryant	109½	+ 3½	5.8	11.7
125½	99½	CALA	103½	− 1	4.5	8.3
6½	2½	Campbell & Arm	3½			
104½	53½	Clarke T	83½		7.9	9.8
46	20½	Costain	23			
105	71	Countryside	100		3.8	
111	80½	Crest Nicholson	100	− 4½	3.9	12.3
102½	67½	Cussins	94½		5.6	9.4
177½	147½	Eve Group	160	+ 3½	4.2	11.7
24	15½	Galliford▼	20		6.6	13.0
1076	857½	Gleeson (MJ)†	1020		2.2	16.8
320	140	Havelock Euro†	151½	.	3.8	9.8
194½	123	Hewden-Stuart	163½	+ 1½	2.6	21.9
22	16	Howard Hldgs	21	.	4.8	19.0
354½	130½	Laing	353	+ 12	1.9	18.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
680	530	Brammer	579	− 2	3.5	14.0
27	12½	Bridgend Gp	13	.	1.9	59.4
119½	94½	Brit Fittings	95		5.9	7.6
360	300	Caffyns	349		4.7	7.9
225	162½	Car Group	192½		3.1	
172½	117½	Caverdale†	130½	...	3.8	7.6
100	61½	Charles Sidney	86½		4.6	12.4
59½	42	Cook (DC)	43½		6.9	5.8
121	90½	Dag Motors	99	..	10.1	6.4
134½	102½	Denmans El	105½		3.3	9.7
400	215	Diploma†	221½		8.1	9.1
502½	387½	Electrocomponts†	463	− 3	2.2	24.9
226½	117½	Eurodis Elec	153½		4.2	30.0
105	76½	European Mtrt	94		7.8	7.3
300	213	Evans Halshaw	290	...	7.1	
55½	39½	Fife Indmar	47½		8.9	7.8
397½	275	Finelist Grp	332½	+ 1	2.9	14.8
34½	19¼	Gardiner	21½	.	5.5	7.9
79¼	57½	Glenchewton	68		2.9	11.1
110	82½	Gowrings	95½	.	4.1	15.9
15¼	11	HR Owen	13		7.0	8.8
103	20½	Hamlet A	22½	.	.	2.1
374	284½	Headlam†	326		2.3	19.7
172	145	Holders Tech	152½	...	5.3	12.5
240½	66½	ISA Intl	73½	+ 1	5.1	5.7
308½	178½	Inchcape†	178½	− 3½	6.9	11.8
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	57½		5.4	7.4
343½	214½	Kwik-Fit	337½	+ ½	2.2	18.5
460½	316½	Lex Service	448	+ 1	4.6	13.5
122	97	Lookers	110	...	9.1	7.9
9	5¼	Middlesex	5½	− ¼	2.3	13.5
41½	10½	Midstates	19½		3.7	
472	180	Norbain†	280	− 1	3.9	11.3
238	114½	Northamber†	226	+ 1½	1.4	15.9
352½	285½	Pattec	315½	..	3.2	16.7
394½	254½	Pendragon	277½	.	4.8	12.2
223½	172½	Perry Gp	180		6.4	8.0
751	403½	Premier Farnell	412½	− 1	3.8	15.3
144½	116	Quicks Group	121½		7.7	8.0
357	285	REA	290		1.7	64.1
2½	1¼	Reece	1½	.		50.2
28	9½	Rowman	12	.		
4	1¼	Ross Gp	3½	.		
109½	78½	Ryland	103½		4.9	9.8
38	24	SEP Indl	27¼	..	7.1	12.6
92½	25	Saltire	27½	..	5.5	
415½	204½	Time Products†	206		7.5	8.5
347	162½	Trust Motor Grp†	163½	.	8.6	7.2
408	228	UMECO	400		1.8	21.2
83½	59	United Ocean Gp	86		0.6	10.1
352½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	270	..	3.5	12.9
685	498½	WF Elect	638½		2.9	21.9
41	25½	Whitfast	37¼		2.8	10.2
172½	111½	Wyko	144½	− 1½	2.6	16.0
159½	119½	Young (H)	154	.	3.8	.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	337½		1.8	17.3
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	254		2.6	11.1
917	530¼	Broken Hill	530¼	− 24	3.9	14.4
289	174	BTR	181½	− 1½	6.1	6.3
624	462	BAT†	544	+ 7	6.0	13.4
60½	41	Bocrley Inv	43½	− ¼	11.0	7.0
266	182	Cookson	193		6.2	12.1
240½	197½	Cosalt	226½	− 3½	6.4	
415	255½	DCC†	387½	+ 2½	2.5	14.5
345½	243½	Gallaher	345	− ½	7.0	10.8
140½	101½	Hanson Crstd	119½	− 1	9.2	13.4
687¼	338½	Hutch Whamp	390	+ 16½	3.0	23.8
438½	361	Imperial Tob†	393½	+ 2½	6.8	9.7
522¼	270½	Jardine Math	273½	+ 3	5.5	10.8
158½	85½	Lonrho	89	− 3½	8.7	9.3
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	160		5.3	
482½	388½	Powell Duffryn†	476½	+ 1½	6.6	12.4
197½	141½	Staveley†	146		7.7	19.1
604¼	274¼	Swire Pacific	331	− 11	4.2	
397½	293	TT Group	293	− 1½	3.4	12.0
351	252½	Tomkins	287½	− ½	4.2	13.2
210	165	Undarel	207½		7.8	
498	350	Wardle Storeys†	410		6.2	12.5
387½	285½	Wassall	321½	− 1	2.7	14.4
166½	122½	Whitecroft†	129½		4.5	21.0

ELECTRICITY

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
445¼	184½	Br Energy	441½	+ 4½	4.0	43.0
670	463½	Energy Group	647	+ 6	4.1	13.7
316	192	National Grid†	285¼	+ 4¼	5.0	13.3
685	427	National Power†	586	+ 6	6.0	8.0
547	352½	Nthn Ireland	534½	− ½	5.1	36.9
805	565½	PowerGen†	787½	+ 8½	4.2	12.0
500	319½	Hydro-Elect	499½	+ 1	4.6	11.3
535	331½	Scottish Power	516	+ 8	4.7	12.6
506	373½	Southern Elec	494	+ 3	5.7	13.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
493½	346½	Acal†	346½		3.6	11.3
240½	138	Acorn	141½			
695	365	Admiral	695	+ 35	0.4	52.3
78	22	Amstrad	31	.	2.0	14.6
48½	29½	Arlen	32½	+ ½	4.6	8.5
164½	104	Astec	111	− 2	2.1	13.0
77½	48½	Aslan	49	− ½		
293½	139½	BICC†	160½	− 1	9.7	14.9
173	50	Bestec Hoste	61½		36.0	3.6
382½	205	Blick	365	+ 3½	6.8	
457½	292½	Bowthorpe	381½	+ ½	3.4	15.3
15½	9	Bulgin A	13½		6.8	16.7
157½	127½	CML Micro	157½		4.8	18.8
39½	22½	Channel Hldgs	29½		7.0	10.2
43½	27½	Chloride†	37	− ½	2.3	8.9
84½	54	Clayhithe	67½		6.7	7.4
920	537½	Critchley†	720	.	2.3	19.3

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BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
116[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 4½% 1998	116[illegible]		3.89	6.66
103[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	100[illegible]		9.73	7.16
101[illegible]	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.25	7.21
110[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	102[illegible]	− [illegible]	13.61	7.23
114[illegible]	106[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	106[illegible]	− [illegible]	14.59	7.24
108[illegible]	104[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	104[illegible]	− [illegible]	11.51	7.22
105[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	102[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.28	7.11
111[illegible]	106[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	106[illegible]	− [illegible]	11.53	7.06
108[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	104[illegible]		10.03	6.96
98[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]		6.08	6.85
109[illegible]	105[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	105[illegible]		9.68	6.92
106[illegible]	103[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	104[illegible]		8.63	6.85
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	103[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.74	6.75
105[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2000	103[illegible]		8.24	6.84
119[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	114[illegible]		11.39	6.89
112[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	109	+ [illegible]	9.17	6.80
101[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	101[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.92	6.65
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
102[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 7% 2002	101[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.88	6.55
122[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	112[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.88	6.63
107[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	106[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.49	6.50
117[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	116[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.60	6.52
116[illegible]	112[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	10.13	6.81
90[illegible]	82[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	90[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.88	5.27
118[illegible]	109[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	116[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.15	6.45
102[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	101[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.63	6.41
114[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.52	6.37
122[illegible]	110[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	117[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.08	6.37
130[illegible]	124[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.70	6.56
108[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	107[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.95	6.33
110[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	109[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.10	6.37
106[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.59	6.65
123[illegible]	115[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.64	6.59
116[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.38	6.35
107[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	107[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.77	6.27
121[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	121[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.41	6.23
114[illegible]	101	Treas 8% 2009	114[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.00	6.27
99[illegible]	86[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	99[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.28	6.30
124[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	124[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.24	6.30
125[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	125[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.18	6.31
93[illegible]	80[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	93[illegible]	+ [illegible]	5.88	6.19
112[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	112[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.88	6.37
LONGS (over 15 years)						
118[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	118[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.86	6.31
118[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	118[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.74	6.25
127[illegible]	103[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	127[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.85	6.27
121[illegible]	101[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	121[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.56	6.21
UNDATED						
55[illegible]	43[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	55[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.29	...
38[illegible]	30[illegible]	Treas 2½%	38[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.46	...
61[illegible]	49[illegible]	Consols 4%	60[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.56	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
194[illegible]	184[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	194[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.95	3.27
182[illegible]	180[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	182[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.95	3.18
124[illegible]	117[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	124[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.83	3.12
206[illegible]	198	Treas IL 2% 2006	206[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.96	3.11
189[illegible]	170[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	189[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.84	3.06
197[illegible]	176[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	197[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.95	3.05
164	144[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	164	+ [illegible]	2.95	3.03
177[illegible]	153[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	177[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.95	3.03
172[illegible]	147[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	172[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.97	3.04
144[illegible]	122[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	144[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.97	3.03
142[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	142[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.96	3.02

WATER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
852½	577½	Anglian†	835	+ 1	5.4	11.4
285	203	East Surrey†	285		4.9	11.5
970½	740	Hyder	958½	+ 2	6.0	7.9
140½	101½	Hyder Cm Pd	118¾	− ¼	8.6	
675	532½	Mid Kent Hdgs	675	+ 2½	5.9	9.9
1050	663	Severn Trent	1016	+ 17	4.7	11.1
3290	2755	South Staffs†	3277½	.	3.6	13.5
938½	596½	South West†	929	− 1	5.1	11.7
970	593½	Thames	950	− 2	4.8	10.5
808	605½	Utd Utilities†	767	+ 2	6.3	12.4
528½	344½	Wessex	503½	+ 1	4.7	9.6
503½	325	Yorkshire†	487½	− 1	5.0	9.5

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
167½	84½	Abacus Recruit	167½	+ 9	1.1	19.4
217	170	Cafe Inns†	207½		1.8	15.8
262½	189	Dawson Hdgs	220		2.7	21.2
51¼	26½	Freepages	28½	+ ½		
98½	64½	Megalomedia	66		0.4	31.3
65	22½	Memory Corp	26½	− 1		
390	280	Poser Rail†	398		1.6	..
1365	732½	Rainco Eqy	870	− 2½	0.1	
783	619½	Southern Trans	736½	.	3.4	19.6
84½	65½	Southern Vectis	84½		3.1	17.6
60½	17¼	Trocadero†	17½	− ½	.	.

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

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BUSINESS 30

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BUSINESS

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

BT faces bill for £100m over wrong pensions

By Gavin Lumsden

BT may be forced to pay up to £100 million in compensation to managers who took voluntary redundancy in the early 1990s but were given the wrong pension.

Trustees of the £18.5 billion BT Pension Scheme have taken the company to the High Court in an agreed test case to sort out a problem that has plagued the telecom group for more than two years.

At issue is whether 5,000 managers originally employed by the Post Office before 1971 and who transferred to BT after its privatisation in 1987 were given pensions in line with civil servants when they accepted voluntary redundancy in the early 1990s. The decision will affect a further 4,000 managers still employed by BT.

The 5,000 managers, all aged between 40 and 49 and members of group A of the BT Pension Scheme when they were laid off, were originally part of the Primary Civil Service Pension Scheme. The PCPS now pays a lump sum of four times final salary to civil servants who are made redundant, whereas the BT managers received a multiple of three.

The Society of Telecom Executives, which represents 20,000 telecom managers, noticed the discrepancy two years ago. It contacted the trustees who began negotiations with BT. Two test cases involving a former manager, Robert Mowle, and an employee, Alan Greenwood, have been sent to the High Court. A spokesman for BT said the STE figures were too high but admitted the company's liability could stretch to "*tens of millions of pounds*". If the pension scheme could not fund this then BT would compensate the former employees directly. The chances of BT taking the charge directly have increased since the pension scheme was revalued downwards after the Chancellor's abolition of advance corporation tax in July.

BT has shed 125,000 jobs, more than half its workforce, since 1990. Other privatised companies such as British Gas, who have also shed thousands of jobs, will watch the case with interest. Pensions benefits have proved to be one of the most controversial areas for privatised companies which have embarked on large scale redundancy programmes.

The issue of whether electricity companies can use surpluses from Electricity Supply Pension Scheme has dragged both National Power and National Grid into the court this year.

An appeal from electricity pensioners is still expected after the High Court rejected a Pensions Ombudsman decision in July. Hermes, the BT scheme's fund manager, transferred £1.5 billion of funds into Hermes Liberty International Pensions, a joint venture it has set up with Liberty Life, the South African insurance company.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

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Nikkei	15904.30	(–145.85)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7827.35	(–21.64)*
S&P Composite	951.26	(–3.69)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	102⅝*	(101¹¹⁄₁₆)
Yield	5.95%*	(6.01%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7⅝%	(7⅝%)
Little long gilt future (Mar)	120¹⁴⁄₁₆	(121½)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.7730*	(1.6587)
London:		
$	1.6522	(1.6540)
DM	2.9296	(2.9328)
FFr	9.8124	(9.8200)
SFr	2.3694	(2.3803)
Yen	215.30	(215.27)
£ Index	103.7	(103.8)

DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.6500*	(1.7600)
FFr	5.9410*	(5.9025)
SFr	1.4335*	(1.4240)
Yen	130.45*	(129.79)
$ Index	108.3	(108.4)

Tokyo close Yen 129.83

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb) $17.75 ($17.55)

GOLD

London close $282.65 ($283.75)

* denotes midday trading price

America dashes Korea's hope of quick payout from IMF

By Janet Bush in London and Jennifer Veale in Seoul

AMERICA yesterday dashed hopes in South Korea that it would support speeding-up rescue payments by the International Monetary Fund.

A spokesman for the US Treasury said: "It is clear that Korea would welcome early disbursement. At this time, it is not possible."

Seoul has been hoping that the IMF would release $21 billion, rather than the planned $9 billion, by the end of this month. So far, South Korea has received only $5.6 billion of an IMF bail-out of nearly $60 billion.

The negative statement from the US Treasury came only hours before the deadline for a deal on global liberalisation of trade in financial services in Geneva. Seven hours before the deadline, America had not made its position known, prompting speculation that it was holding out for a better deal.

Two years ago, the US scuppered an agreement at the last minute because it was not satisfied that offers from Latin America and Asia would open up their markets sufficiently.

South Korea, and the broader Asian financial crisis, will top the agenda at a series of high-level meetings early next week. On Monday, the IMF will debate the possibility of a short-term financing mechanism designed to restore market confidence.

On Tuesday, Asia will head the agenda at a meeting in Washington between Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister; President Clinton; Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF; Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary; and Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve.

The IMF's meeting on Monday is held amid a growing realisation that even a huge rescue package has failed to stabilise the situation in South Korea and prevent the contagion spreading even deeper throughout the region, particularly to Japan.

Christopher Huhne, managing director of Fitch IBCA, the international credit agency, said: "The IMF's reputation is on the line. It has got to show that it is cabable of rescuing the 11th largest economy in the world."

South Korea had another abysmal day. The won fluctuated wildly, despite heavy intervention by the central bank. The stock market plunged by more than 6 per cent in the first ten minutes of trading on the news that Dongsuh, the nation's third-largest securities firm, had filed for court receivership. The market closed more than 4 per cent lower.

The sense of crisis deepened as Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, downgraded 22 South Korean banks and the state-owned Korea Development Bank had to pull a $2 billion bond issue because of lack of interest from investors. The money was to be used to help to pay off short-term debt.

Confidence was battered even further by an IMF report saying that South Korea's foreign exchange reserves stood at only $6 billion. On Wednesday, Lim Chang-yuel, South Korea's Finance Minister, estimated them at $10 billion.

Not so secure securities: an anxious South Korean investor watches the trading board in a securities house in Seoul yesterday

'Big two' put on credit watch

By Our Economics Editor

TWO out of three of Japan's remaining "big four" securities houses, Nikko and Daiwa, were yesterday put on credit watch by one of the main rating agencies.

Moody's made it clear that it is the long-term debt of both firms that it has placed under review and that their short-term debt is not affected. The distinction is important in the nervous atmosphere following the recent collapse of Yamaichi Securities, the smallest of the big four as it makes clear Moody's is not concerned about the immediate solvency of either firm.

The agency decided to act in view of the deteriorating business climate in Asia and the risk to the two firms of possible sanctions related to their part in a scandal involving payments to gangsters.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, Japan's Finance Minister, said yesterday that he intended to take punitive measures against Nikko and Daiwa by the end of this month.

Moody's found room to praise Nikko, saying that the firm had made progress in developing its international business and building its asset management business, despite difficult conditions.

In the case of Daiwa, the agency said: "Dwindling stock values, intensifying competition by foreign securities firms and domestic banks, and the negative impact of the *sokaiya* payment investigation pose challenges for Daiwa in attaining its strategic goals."

Generators called to RJB talks

By Jason Nisse

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the Paymaster General, has called the three main electricity generators — National Power, Powergen and Eastern Electricity — and RJB Mining to a Monday morning meeting to try to solve the coal crisis.

The Treasury is hoping to persuade the generators to extend the existing five-year coal contracts by up to three months in an attempt to stop RJB closing up to nine mines with the loss of 5,000 jobs.

New deals between RJB and the generators are due to start in April, with National Power cutting its purchase to eight million tonnes a year, Eastern halving its demand to four million tonnes and Powergen threatening to take no RJB coal. Tony Blair has called for a freeze on building gas-fuelled power stations to aid coal demand.

Waste disposal chief to get £69m in SWW deal

By George Sivell

TERRY ADAMS, a 55-year-old West Country businessman, will shortly receive a cheque for £69 million from South West Water.

Yesterday he sold his waste disposal company to South West Water for £77 million up front, plus a possible £28 million later. Adams family trusts own 90 per cent of Terry Adams Ltd, which was built up by buying abandoned open-cast coalmines from British Coal.

Mr Adams, who lives near Exeter, started in business during the Seventies with a family quarrying concern. The attraction of his business to South West Water is that much of his company's landfill space already has permission for waste dumping.

South West Water sees landfill as a good source of profit to supplement its heavily regulated profits from its basic water supply business. Yesterday's deal makes South West Water one of the biggest landfill companies in the country.

The deal will add landfill sites across England to South West Water's existing network.

In the 12 months to March 31, 1997, Terry Adams turnover was £15.5 million, while the profit before tax and directors' remuneration was £5.5 million.

After the deal Haul Waste, South West Water's subsidiary, becomes one of the largest landfill operators in the United Kingdom.

In the 1996-97 financial year Haul Waste contributed £7.8 million of pre-tax profit.

The newly acquired landfill sites are scattered across England from Bristol to Manchester and Derby. The Terry Adams sites have capacity of 49 million cubic metres, of which 17 million cubic metres have consent.

After the acquisition, South West Water said that it will have 55 million cubic metres of consented space and 75 million cubic metres of space without consent.

Colin Drummond, managing director of South West Water Enterprises, said: "The acquisition represents natural progression in growing our waste management business. It will further enhance the ability to contribute to the South West Water group's profit growth."

Moyne says he was not paid £1m

By Jon Ashworth

LORD MOYNE, the former Jonathan Guinness, has denied that he was paid more than £1 million for acting as "front-man" for alleged Swedish swindlers who targeted Trustor, the Swedish investment company.

The peer, who claims to be an unwitting pawn, admits receiving a fee for allowing his name to front the purchase of a controlling stake in Trustor. Nearly £50 million in Trustor funds subsequently passed through his London bank account, en route to destinations offshore.

Lord Moyne's stake in Trustor has been sold for a nominal sum in return for a guarantee that his expenses will be met.

Profile, City Diary, page 30

Euro on hold as Shell plans switch to dollars

By George Sivell

ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, is to switch from reporting its results in sterling to dollars next financial year.

Such a move, by one of Europe's largest companies, may seem surprising ahead of the creation of a single European currency. But Shell points out that oil is a dollar commodity, exploration and production projects are frequently costed in dollars, and that many of its main rivals are American.

Yesterday Shell said that Royal Dutch, the Dutch half of the business in The Hague, would contemplate reporting in euros if and when the Netherlands joined the euro. Similarly, Shell Transport and Trading, the British half of the business in London, would contemplate a switch to reporting in euros if and when Britain signed up to a single European currency. The myriad Shell subsidiary companies worldwide will continue to report in their local currencies.

Shell was at pains to assure shareholders that the complicated mechanism for declaring British and Dutch dividends in sterling and guilders will remain.

BP has for some time published dollar figures alongside its sterling results and like Shell will publish results in euros if and when Britain joins the single currency.

So one day in the dim and distant future BP results could be in three currencies: the dollar for the benefit of the oil industry and those analysts making international comparisons; sterling for the benefit of British shareholders: and euros, to show what a fine European company it is.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

The week had a familiar feel. A mega merger. A boardroom coup. More millionaires. The European aerospace industry was primed for a shake-up, markets in the Far East took a fresh tumble, and Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer, found itself under the gavel.

Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) announced that it was to merge with Swiss Bank Corporation in a £35 billion deal, sounding the death knell for another batch of vintage City names. Phillips & Drew has long been subsumed by UBS, and SG Warburg now labours under the title SBC Warburg Dillon Read. And who remembers Rowe & Pitman? Up to 3,000 jobs could go as UBS and SBC crunch together their London operations. According to *Acquisitions Monthly*, the world total for mergers and acquisitions has reached £289 billion since September alone.

Toyota chose France for its new European factory, fuelling fears that Britain will lose out because of its failure to join the first wave of European economic and monetary union (EMU) in 1999. Europe's defence and aerospace companies were told to come up with "a clear plan and detailed timetable" for integration by March 1998, bringing great opportunities for GEC and British Aerospace, along with Airbus Industrie.

Nationwide Building Society predicted a sharp slowdown in house prices next year, as gold slumped to an 18-year low. The Government backtracked over its controversial individual savings account (ISA), saying the proposed £50,000 limit was not cast in stone.

Yorkshire Food called in the receivers, while a former City analyst-turned-gastronome found himself in the money. Andrew Palmer, who set up the New Covent Garden Soup Company, and hung on to his shares after he was forced out in 1993, is set to receive more than £2 million for his stake (no pun intended). S Daniels, a food company, is paying up to £24 million for the business.

Michael Morris, the man behind Yves Saint Laurent in the UK, was left with a paper profit of about £9 million when Marchpole came to the market. Elsewhere, the sound of rending fabric echoed down Regent Street, as Denis Cassidy was turfed out as chairman of Liberty, the upmarket retailer. The move says much for the tenacity of Brian Myerson, the active value campaigner, who has been trying since June 1992 to win a place on the Liberty board.

Christie's announced that it had rejected an initial takeover approach, then revealed two days later that the mystery suitor had come back with a better offer. Fingers were pointed at Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor who holds a 29.9 per cent stake in Christie's, but sources denied it.

Financial turmoil in Asia spread to South Korea, which saw the won fall 10 per cent in four minutes, on fears that the economy was close to imploding. Better cheer at the Savoy, which took delivery of its new fleet of Rolls-Royce and Daimler cars, exclusively for the use of guests. A top-of-the-market indicator if ever there was one.

JON ASHWORTH

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'Sam' poised to give £25bn boost to economy

By Gavin Lumsden

AGEING homeowners could release up to £25 billion into the economy over the next five years as they convert equity locked in their homes into much-needed cash, according to a forecast by SBC Warburg, the investment bank.

SBC Warburg believes the shared appreciation mortgage (Sam) will become more widely available in 1998 as lenders such as Abbey National, Barclays and NatWest follow the Bank of Scotland, which launched the Sam last year, into the market.

An increasing number of "asset-rich but cash-poor" homeowners are turning to Sams to finance their retirement. By taking one out, homeowners who have paid off most, or all, of their mortgage, can raise more money by giving away a proportion of the future growth in value of their property to the lender. They are safer than the notorious home income plans of the 1980s because homeowners surrender none of the existing value of their property. The BoS is receiving £3 million of Sam applications every day and expects total business to reach £750 million by the end of next year.

Sams are on the Government's agenda, as it urges people to provide for themselves in retirement. The equity locked in homes is valued at £900 billion and is predicted to rise to £1.5 trillion in the next four years. Tapping these sums is seen as essential for increasing welfare without raising taxes.

If successful, Sams could have profound implications for the stock market. Craig Corn, director of SBC Warburg's Residential Property Group, says homeowners are over-invested in property and need to diversify assets. If they turn to equities it could herald the start of a long-term bull run in the market.

In addition, Sams will generate a new £50 billion market in mortgage-backed bonds for institutional investors to trade in, double the existing market in index-linked gilts.

Next month SBC Warburg and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson will securitise a triple A-rated £250 million tranche of Sam loans from the BoS. Annual returns are expected to be 9 per cent. Minimum investment has been reduced to £10,000.

Weekend Money, page 64

Littlewoods and Burton in deal over shopping

By Alasdair Murray

LITTLEWOODS is teaming up with Burton, the fashion retailer, to create a new home-shopping business with access to about six million customers.

The privately owned football pools and retail group has won the right to feature Burton brands — which include Dorothy Perkins, Top Man and Burton Menswear — in its existing home-shopping portfolio.

The two companies will also create a separate joint-venture company, 65 per cent owned by Burton, to run Burton's own home-shopping lines which also include Hawkshead and Racing Green. Littlewoods will pay £15 million for the remaining stake in the joint venture as well as providing the infrastructure for the business. The two companies will share access to their customer databases.

James Ross, chairman of Littlewoods, said: "This venture is part of our strategy to transform Littlewoods' image by adding quality brands to our catalogues." He added that the company was considering entering the electronic home-shopping market through cable and digital television and remains on the lookout for further joint ventures.

The announcment came as Littlewoods unveiled a 52 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £40.4 million. Group retail sales rose by 5 per cent to £891 million boosted by strong growth in the direct home-shopping operations.

But Mr Ross said sales in the past six weeks were only 3 per cent ahead, reviving concern that the high street is suffering a poor run-up to Christmas. Mr Ross said he was not too concerned by the lower sales growth as the recent thrust of the group has been to improve profit margins.

Its high street stores, which were pulled off the market earlier this year after the company failed to find a buyer, increased profits by 63 per cent to £8.8 million despite a 7 per cent slump in sales during the first half. The direct sales unit also increased profits sharply from £16.2 million to £27.4 million.

The pools business, however, continued to struggle against competition from the National Lottery. Profits fell a quarter to £8.9 million and Mr Ross admits there is little the company can do to fight back except improve its distribution system and aim to stabilise sales. But he added that the business was still cash generative and profitable and a sale would only be enivsaged at a price which created shareholder value.

Peter Lawrence, chairman of Lawrence, the animal feed and pet care company, reported annual pre-tax profits of £1.28 million (£985,000). Earnings were 13.4p (11.2p) and the total dividend rises to 1.9p (1.65p). The shares rose 6p to a record 401p. Mr Lawrence said the company, which exports a significant share of its products, continued to suffer from the pound's strength, but would report further progress at the year-end.

Inquiry into financial services for the elderly

By Marianne Curphey

THE methods used to sell financial products to elderly, disabled and vulnerable people will come under scrutiny next week when the Office of Fair Trading launches a new inquiry into sales tactics.

The investigation comes amid concern that the most vulnerable members of the population may have been sold unsuitable products by unscrupulous agents and financial advisers.

The inquiry, to be launched next week, will cover banking, credit insurance, savings and other financial products sold to elderly or disabled people, people with learning difficulties or low educational attainment, and to people for whom English is not their first language.

The Office of Fair Trading has decided to act because it felt that there might be a problem that had not come to light because few of the people affected understood what they had been sold.

A spokesman for the OFT said: "We are talking about groups which may not be financially astute and so we do not get many complaints. However, we became aware of the need to look at this sector more carefully."

The inquiry will not look at long-term care insurance, which is a product sold almost exclusively to elderly people. The OFT has already begun a separate inquiry into residential and nursing home care and has looked at the sale of private medical insurance. The investigation into long-term care is expected to be published by next spring.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ICI sells stake in AEL for $117m

ICI is raising $117 million (about £71 million) through the sale of its 51 per cent shareholding in AEL, the South African explosives business, to its joint venture partner, AECI. AEL manufactures and supplies bulk and packaged explosives, initiating systems and blast management services to the mining, quarrying, construction and allied exploration industries in Africa.

The business, which is based near Johannesburg, has three main operating units in South Africa, Ghana and Zambia, with export sales into the Congo, Zimbabwe and East Africa. Sales in 1996 were $221 million and trading profit was $32 million. Net assets were $54 million at the last year-end and the business employed about 3,800 people. The disposal is the latest stage in ICI's restructuring to focus on speciality chemicals, coatings and materials. The company said the effect of the sale on the group's earnings was expected to be neutral.

Oil price slide halted

WORLD oil prices staged a modest recovery yesterday after touching 18-month lows on Thursday on growing fears that a flood of oil would swamp markets next spring and summer. The world benchmark crude, Brent blend, was up 14 cents at $17.55 a barrel, having dipped to $17.20. But prices remain locked below the psychologically important $18 level and many analysts expect a raft of bearish factors over the coming months to keep prices down. This year prices have averaged $19.43 after falling sharply from $25 in January.

Anite confirms talks

SHARES in Anite Group rose 6p, to 50p, yesterday after the computer software and services company confirmed that it was negotiating a sale of its UK networks business. The company said that it would give details of the proposed disposal at the time of the publication of its half-year financial results, next Tuesday. Anite, formerly known as Cray Electronics, is restructuring itself after incurring a pre-tax loss of £50 million in the year to April 30. Market rumours of an imminent disposal had lifted the shares from a low of 32p in August.

Beaufort issues warning

BEAUFORT, the AIM-listed sponsorship management group, believes that profits will be "significantly lower" in the year to March 1998. Beaufort said the results for Beaufort Management Consultants, the management consultancy business that accounted for 67 per cent of group fee income in the first six months, were down against last year. Beaufort says the longer-term outlook remains encouraging. In the six months to September 30 Beaufort made £103,000 before tax (£287,000).

Allied Irish in US sale

ALLIED IRISH BANKS has confirmed the sale of the credit card operations of First Maryland Bancorp, a subsidiary, to BankAmerica for an undisclosed sum. BankAmerica is buying the $623 million (£370 million) in receivables of First Omni Bank and Dauphin Deposit Bank, which are owned by First Maryland. AIB sold the Bell Atlantic co-branded credit card portfolio to Chase Manhattan Bank in August. AIB said the businesses had been hit by competition.

Calluna calls for cash

CALLUNA, the electronic equipment group, is to raise £6 million net via a placing and rights issue. Calluna has also agreed a short-term bridging facility of up to £1 million, to be repaid from the proceeds of the placing. Shareholders were told in a statement that the company needed the cash to continue to trade. The shares remain suspended at 15½p. Overall losses were £2.8 million in the first half to September 30 (£2 million loss). Dealings are expected to be restored on January 7.

Brasway pegs payout

BRASWAY, the manufacturer of connection products to the hydraulic, fluid and gas systems markets, is holding the interim dividend at 0.31p a share after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.04 million from £1.39 million previously. Latest results were adversely affected by the strength of sterling and by a £141,000 restructuring charge. Earnings fell to 0.89p a share from 1.12p. In the short term trading would continue to be affected by the strong pound, the company said.

Court says Lloyd's debt records are inadequate

By Adam Jones

A HIGH COURT judge has ruled that debt records submitted by Lloyd's of London in bankruptcy proceedings against 627 names are inadequate.

Mr Justice Tuckey told Lloyd's that it has to come up with more information to back up its calculations of how much is owed by the names, among 1,000 facing order 14 bankruptcy actions.

The additional information must be made available on January 12, in advance of a High Court hearing which is scheduled for January 21.

An action group of names claimed the ruling as a victory in their fight to avoid paying the premium cost of setting up Equitas, the company that was established to take on Lloyd's massive liabilities, which spiralled in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as a result of natural disasters and asbestosis claims.

Catherine Mackenzie Smith, of the United Names Organisation, commented: "This is a major set-back for Lloyd's debt collection operations. If they cannot establish proof of their numbers then they cannot pursue names for money."

However, a Lloyd's spokesman said: "We are confident that the further material we can supply to the court will uphold our case."

He added: "We see this as a delay but are confident of being able to enforce judgments against all the defendants." He said that this was not thought to require masses of new paperwork being submitted.

Earlier this year, a pay-now-sue-later clause in the names' contracts was upheld, giving Lloyd's the power to push forward with their debt collection without having to first deal with any fraud allegations in court.

The 627 names, represented by Michael Freeman, are being pursued for £130 million by Lloyd's.

Swiss to monitor effects of banks' mega-merger

From a correspondent in Zurich

OFFICIALS of the Swiss National Bank said yesterday that they would monitor closely the planned merger of Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp, announced earlier this week.

Hans Meyer, SNB chairman, said that the merger raised questions about the implementation of Swiss monetary policy.

If approved, it would create the world's second-biggest bank by assets and the world's largest asset manager, but at the cost of 13,000 jobs. Some 7,000 jobs are slated to go in Switzerland alone over the next three to four years, accounting for 6 per cent of all banking jobs in the country. A further 3,000 jobs are likely to be lost in London.

Herr Meyer emphasised that companies should be free to make their own decisions within the framework of conditions laid down by the Government and Parliament to steer economic activity in avenues that benefit the common good. He said: "On the national and international level, the financial industry is still undergoing great change.

"Size alone is no guarantee of success, but above all in international business it is necessary to have the sustained clout that arises from the combination of human and technical resources."

He said that many people cared less about the financial logic of the deal than about the impact of such moves on their daily lives. This was especially so in Switzerland, a relatively small country that is home to many multinational companies. "A force field is arising here with an impact on business and society that we have to watch carefully."

Herr Meyer praised the senior managers who will be in charge of implementing the merger.

He said: "Their expertise and above all their awareness of their responsibility offer assurances they will proceed carefully."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.59	2.42
Austria Sch	21.62	19.96
Belgium Fr	63.68	58.72
Canada $	2.466	2.278
Cyprus Cyp£	0.904	0.833
Denmark Kr	11.75	10.86
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.29	9.51
Germany Dm	3.09	2.85
Greece Dr	487	446
Hong Kong $	13.64	12.44
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09
Israel Shk	6.23	5.58
Italy Lira	3048	2811
Japan Yen	230.03	212.50
Malta	0.678	0.619
Netherlds Gld	3.494	3.199
New Zealand $	2.93	2.69
Norway Kr	12.61	11.67
Portugal Esc	312.03	290.00
S Africa Rd	8.79	7.83
Spain Pta	259.29	240.50
Sweden Kr	13.65	12.55
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.31
Turkey Lira	338375	316497
USA $	1.759	1.616

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Working in the City has been the next best thing to winning the Lottery over the past three years — better, in many cases . . ."

Are the days of seven-figure bonuses numbered? Business Focus on the changing fortunes for traders and bankers. The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

CHG makes £30m bid for private hospitals group

By Martin Barrow

CONSOLIDATION of the private hospitals sector gathered pace yesterday with a £30 million agreed takeover bid by Community Hospitals Group for Independent British Healthcare.

The takeover was announced yesterday, almost one month after CHG acquired a 20 per cent interest in Independent British Healthcare from Bupa, the private healthcare company. Bupa has subsequently launched a hostile takeover bid for Care First, the £240 million healthcare group.

CHG is offering seven shares and £82.66 in cash for every 100 IBH shares, valuing shares in the Blackpool-based company at 110p each. IBH shares, which trade on the Alternative Investment Market, rose 4p to 105p.

Community Hospitals, which is based in Bedford and was founded in 1981, sold most of its nursing homes to Bupa in June to concentrate on the more profitable private hospital business. The addition of IBH's 11 hospitals in England will give the enlarged group 22 private hospitals in the UK.

Alan Dexter, chairman of CHG, said: "We decided at the beginning of the year to concentrate on the provision of acute medical services and to grow both by acquisition and by extending the range of services offered by our existing hospitals."

He added: "IBH is an excellent fit with no significant geographic overlap and provides additional scope for future profit growth within our group. We believe the enlarged group will be in a strong position to take advantage of the opportunities being created by the process of rapid changes in the healthcare sector."

Last year, IBH made a profit before tax of £1 million on turnover of £37.8 million and directors have forecast a profit for the current year of not less than £500,000 excluding exceptional charges of £2.2 million.

DIRECT Savings

RATES OF INTEREST

Effective from 15 December 1997

	Gross % p.a.	Net equiv. % p.a.
Direct Premium Account		
Annual Interest		
£1,000 - £9,999	6.80	5.44
£10,000 - £24,999	7.05	5.64
£25,000 +	7.15	5.72
Monthly Income		
£10,000 - £24,999	6.80	5.44
£25,000 +	6.90	5.52
Direct Notice Account		
Annual Interest		
£1,000 - £9,999	6.95	5.56
£10,000 - £24,999	7.15	5.72
£25,000 +	7.30	5.84
Monthly Income		
£10,000 - £24,999	6.90	5.52
£25,000 +	7.05	5.64
Direct 60 Account (No longer available to new investors)		
Annual Interest		
£5,000 - £14,999	7.30	5.84
£15,000 - £29,999	7.40	5.92
£30,000 - £49,999	7.50	6.00
£50,000 +	7.55	6.04
Monthly Income		
£15,000 - £29,999	7.15	5.72
£30,000 - £49,999	7.25	5.80
£50,000 +	7.30	5.84
Direct 90 Account (No longer available to new investors)		
Annual Interest		
£15,000 - £29,999	7.50	6.00
£30,000 - £49,999	7.60	6.08
£50,000 +	7.65	6.12
Monthly Income		
£15,000 - £29,999	7.25	5.80
£30,000 - £49,999	7.40	5.92
£50,000 +	7.45	5.96
Direct Preference TESSA (Limited issue)		
£3,001 +	7.80*	-
Direct Classic TESSA (Limited issue)		
£500 +**	7.75	-

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Taking over the safe way

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Archie Norman took on the challenge of resurrecting one basket case, in the shape of Asda, and achieved remarkable success. He is now occupied on his second attempt at the Lazarus exercise, this time with the even more daunting subject of the Tory Party.

Would he really want to have his efforts at Central Office overshadowed by involvement in a hostile takeover bid? This question did not appear to have intruded into the more excitable quarters of the stock market last week, as rumours persisted that Asda was gearing up to make a full scale takeover bid for Safeway.

But educated Archie will have calculated all the implications of such a move. He may be Tunbridge Wells's representative in Westminster, but he still finds time to be Asda's chairman in Leeds, and if a bid were to be forthcoming, he would be cast in the lead role.

No harm in that necessarily. This Government has made clear its approbation of full-blooded commerce, recruiting businessmen by the score to bring commercial nouse to the aid of the nation. So if the deputy chairman of the Tory Party launches a takeover bid, it should, logically, meet with cheers not jeers from the Labour benches, particularly if he can promise cheaper groceries as a result.

Yet prices can only be reduced if efficiencies can be made. Norman would have to tread carefully round any suggestion that there were savings to be had from putting the two businesses together and axing jobs. Hostile bids can be hostile indeed, and if Safeway wanted to fight off an attack from Asda, this would be one line in chairman David Webster's ammunition. Here is heartless Norman aiming to throw innocent shop workers onto the street just as noble Tesco is preparing to take on hundreds of unemployed youngsters under the Government's Welfare to Work scheme.

Making such moves by a top Tory politically acceptable would require spinning of a sophistication to which Central Office has yet aspire.

Norman, in his pre-political phase, was far from averse to hostile bids and is credited with being responsible for persuading his former boss, Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy of Kingfisher, to launch the fiercely contested takeover bid for the group's old enemy, Dixons. That effort came to naught, thanks to the intervention of the Monopolies Commission. The perils of the MMC will be imprinted on Norman's memory, and it was in an effort to avoid those that he and Safeway had actually been trying to persuade the Office of Fair Trading to give them informal guidance on whether a friendly merger would be acceptable.

News of their talks leaked out before a verdict was given. Yet it seems unlikely that the two companies would abandon their plans completely after doing eight months of research. A hostile bid is unlikely, but do not rule out an attempt at a deal of sorts.

Trust-biter general is bitten

One lugubrious sign of a faltering stock market is when the biters are bit. Active vampires of the corporate world wake up feeling their appetite for takeovers weakened and find strange bite marks on their necks.

Another familiar feature is a lack of interest in the shares of investment trusts. If you are doubtful about shares, you will certainly not rush to buy companies whose business is to own shares. In a unit trust, that's no problem. The trust just shrinks. An investment trust doesn't. Instead, its own shares just fall to a bigger discount against the net market value of their holdings.

Put these two together and you have Colin McLean, Glasgow's suave scourge of under-performing trust managers. The former Templeton trust manager has built his own little stable of trusts around Scottish Value Trust, which aims to prey on weak investment trusts whose shares stand on wide discounts.

Other institutions are his friends, because Mr McClean does their dirty work for them. He may press for a unitisation here, shake up a boardroom there. Most characteristically, he insists on the most proper rules of corporate governance wherever his arrival on a share register sends the company secretary stumbling and shaking into the boardroom.

Under the Scottish Value philosophy, trusts are not run for the benefit of their managers but for the shareholders. One of the board's key duties, therefore, is to arrange affairs so as to minimise the discount, if any, at which its shares sell.

How embarrassing, then, that shares in Scottish Value Trust now trade at a discount of more than 15 per cent to their underlying asset value — a rather wider discount than the average for conventional trusts. And this in spite of some buying in of shares.

Undervalued Assets, a stable companion that seeks bargain buys, is not much better on a discount of 13.4 per cent, when rival Value and Income manages a premium.

Perhaps Scottish Value needs a shake-up. Mr McLean can probably count on the personal loyalty of other institutional investors, but that is hardly the upright, figures-based, no-school-tie approach he recommends to others.

Mind you, market optimists who still think shares are going higher need look no further than a trust on a wide discount that invests in trusts on wide discounts that invest in shares.

Another day, another currency

The onward march of the euro, as we all know, is inexorable, propelled by the pragmatic leaders of Europe's business community. Daimler-Benz and Siemens, which hail from a country known for its inexorable qualities, have pledged to conduct operations in euros from the earliest date. Siemens has told UK suppliers and customers that, from October 1999, they will be expected to use euros in dealings with the group's UK business, although sterling will not be inside.

Now Royal Dutch/Shell, Europe's top cross-national business organisation, says that it, too, is planning to change its unit of account. Wait a minute though. The Anglo-Dutch group has opted for dollars, the common currency of the oil industry worldwide, though, for technical reasons, its two parents must still issue accounts in guilders and pounds unless or until these disappear into the euro.

Shell's timing may be wonky, but its move makes sense, just as it may make sense for Siemens to use the euro. Compare and contrast our other great oil multinational. British Petroleum is considering adopting the euro as its international unit of account. Why, pray? Could it have anything to do with Lord Simon of Highbury, the former BP chairman who is now Gordon Brown's Mr Europe, or with Peter Sutherland, the Irish former European Commissioner who coincidentally now heads BP?

Business should be pragmatic on currency, not act as political stormtroops for the euro project.

Liberty fraternité

NEXT week seems set to bring more fun and games in the extraordinary tale of Liberty. After Thursday's truly extraordinary meeting, the company now has a boardroom that could not be more unhappy, with two rebel shareholders elected by a majority of votes, but with the prospect of them being outvoted by the four directors who remain from the previous regime. Time for another extraordinary meeting to oust the chairman again?

AT&T studies $12bn bid for US local operator

From Oliver August in New York

AT&T, the largest US telecommunications group, is said to be considering a $12 billion (£7 billion) takeover bid for Teleport, an American local phone company.

The $37 billion merger of AT&T's rivals MCI and WorldCom has put pressure on the dominant US long-distance call provider. Analysts said that a deal with Teleport could make a possible alliance with AT&T more attractive for British Telecom.

The British phone group was outbid by WorldCom in the MCI auction in October, and is now on the lookout for a new American partner. AT&T was named as one possible partner because it could provide broad access to US customers.

Negotiations between AT&T and Teleport are said to be at an advanced stage. The main sticking point is price. AT&T is believed to be reluctant to pay much more than $10 billion. Teleport's share price rose 10 per cent this week.

Michael Armstrong, the new AT&T chief executive who took over in the autumn, has expressed reservations about the low operating revenue at Teleport last year of $283 million.

Mr Armstrong is under pressure to find a new strategy for the Telecoms giant that is facing increasing competition from smaller high-tech service providers and from rivals like MCI who have invested in broadening their local customer bases.

One Wall Street analyst said: "Right now, AT&T has the benefit of the doubt that things will work out. But if they wait too long that benefit will just become doubt."

AT&T has declined to comment on a possible deal. Robert Annunziata, the chief executive of Teleport, said last month: "If someone comes along with an appropriate price we will do what is best for our shareholders."

Michael Mahoney, manager of the $2 billion GT Global Communications mutual fund, said: "I think there is at least a reasonable chance that a deal is going to get done."

Jack Grubman, the Salomon analyst who was credited with putting together the MCI-WorldCom deal, said: "We believe there is a strategic attractiveness to this deal for AT&T but the price may be an obstacle.

"It would be a smart but expensive move for AT&T to shore up its local strategy."

Teleport — the first and largest competitive local exchange carrier in the US — primarily serves business customers.

An acquisition would provide AT&T with access to local business markets. However, it would still leave the company searching for a way to provide local services to residental customers.

Grainger sees advance give boost to shares

SHARES in Grainger Trust, the property company, rose from 306p to 325p after it unveiled a rise in pre-tax pre-exceptional profits of 18.5 per cent to £7.7 million. An exceptional writedown of £14.7 million against the value of the Kennel Farm site was announced in March which left Grainger with a pre-tax loss of £7 million against a £6.5 million profit last time.

Earnings per share before exceptionals rose 17.3 per cent to 21.7p and the net asset value rose 10.8 per cent to 399p. A final dividend of 5.88p a share makes a 7.5p total for the year, compared with 7p last year.

Nomura buys Ethical's stake in Phytopharm

By Paul Durman

NOMURA International, the Japanese-owned securities firm, has bought a 17.1 per cent stake in Phytopharm, the listed company that aims to develop medicines based on plants.

The purchase from Ethical Holdings, the biotechnology company that abandoned a UK flotation earlier this year, follows the move to Nomura of Erling Refsum, the former Yamaichi pharmaceuticals analyst. Dr Refsum believes Phytopharm's shares had fallen too far for a company that in Zemaphyte had a drug that is "very good at treating eczema".

Phytopharm is up against substantial scepticism because of the difficulties of securing regulatory approval for "botanicals", which, unlike conventional drugs, often involve more than one active compound. Zemaphyte was turned down by the UK Medicines Control Agency last February pending more information. Dr Refsum pointed out that the US Food and Drug Administration has recently granted Zemaphyte investigational new drug status.

At the previous market price, Nomura would have paid Ethical £2.4 million for its stake. Ethical is regarded as a forced seller as it attempts to restructure its business.

Richard Dixey, Phytopharm's chief executive, said the value of his company had fallen to a fraction of that of its next biggest peer among the biotech stocks. This was "ridiculous" given its large portfolio of potential drugs.

Tempus, page 31

Greenwich forced to cut life of goldmine

By Our City Staff

THE sharp fall in the price of gold has forced Greenwich Resources to shorten the planned life of its Paddington goldmine in Western Australia.

The company said it expects Paddington to generate profit for the remainder of the year. Greenwich has a 12.5 per cent net profits interest in the Paddington goldmine. The owner of the mine, Goldfields Kalgoorlie, said: "In light of the significant fall in the spot price of gold during 1997, a review of the operating plan for the Paddington mine has been undertaken.

"The review evaluated several options, from which the board has determined that the Paddington mine will operate for a shortened life of approximately 18 months."

The statement said this preferred option has been based on a reduction in the mineable reserve, based on current spot and forward prices.

The board also said it has decided that surplus hedge positions, additional to the A$43.8 million (£17.6 million) already realised and announced on November 25, 1997, will be closed. Abnormal profits arising from this and the previously announced hedge positions are expected to exceed A$95 million.

However, the abnormal cash profit is expected to be largely matched by abnormal expenses, depreciation and asset write-downs. Greenwich shares held at 16¼p.

Colin Firth and *Fever Pitch* co-star Ruth Gemmell

Cassell issues profits warning

By Our City Staff

SHARES in Cassell, the publishing group, fell from 79½p to 66½p after it warned the market that pre-tax profit for the year to December 31, 1997, will be "significantly below market expectations and last year's level", excluding the profit on the sale of the children's list reported at the half-year stage.

Cassell said that the strong pound and changes in agency arrangements on international sales have continued to impact on overseas sales, and that UK sales have been slower than expected.

However, Cassell says that a strong programme for 1998, which includes a new Nick Hornby title, the Cassell Thesaurus and the Cordon Bleu range, will "provide the springboard for a successful year". *Fever Pitch*, Nick Hornby's first book, topped the bestseller list and was turned into a successful film, with Colin Firth in the lead role. *High Fidelity*, his second book, was also a big seller.

Cassell says that improved gross margins in 1997 will be enhanced in 1998 through focusing on key titles in line with trends in the consumer trade.

New marketing initiatives in the academic division are expected to redress current British sales shortfalls and steps are being taken to develop the marketing of its academic titles in the US.

Reed expects merger approval

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing and information group, said last night that it expected to get eventual clearance for its planned merger with Wolters Kluwer despite a decision by Brussels to mount a detailed investigation.

The European Commission said in a statement that there were "significant overlaps" between the activities of both companies particularly in the areas of legal and tax publishing.

The statement added there would be no other publisher in the professional publications sector that was comparable in terms of financial resources, range of products and geographic scope to the merged entity. This had led the Commission to decide that "there are serious doubts about the compatibility of the planned merger" with European merger law.

The Commission now moves to a detailed "second stage" investigation that can take up to four months.

Reed Elsevier pointed out yesterday that the Commission had never investigated the professional publishing market in Europe before and said it was not surprised that the Commission had moved to the next phase.

Mark Armour, finance director of Reed Elsevier, said last night: "The overall result we expect to be positive." Mr Armour declined to speculate whether the merged entity might be required to sell some of its titles.

The Commission investigation need not necessarily delay completion of the merger. The shareholder meetings to conclude the deal have been scheduled for April 29.

The merged group would employ about 42,000 people and have a market capitalisation of about £18 billion. The greatest dominance of such a merger would come in legal publishing, particularly in the UK and The Netherlands. Reed Elsevier believes that the Commission investigation will reveal a complex pattern of sometimes overlapping niche markets.

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1887/023

Guinness's Greek chorus lets out something of a Swedish wail

Jon Ashworth
hears how
Lord Moyne
hopes to
repair his
reputation

Lord Moyne in his spartan office is confident that his name will be cleared once the Trustor affair is resolved

Fans of Steven Spielberg's *Back To The Future* will recall the endearingly deranged scientist, who runs about the place shouting "Great Scott!" and conjures up time machines in his laboratory. Christopher Lloyd plays the archetypal mad professor, down to the wild, staring eyes, and swept-back Albert Einstein hairdo.

Dress him up like a merchant banker, and you have Lord Moyne, the former Jonathan Guinness, who is alive and well (if somewhat agitated) and grappling with a small matter involving some Swedes and a sizeable money transfer. The peer, whose book on the Guinness Affair, *Requiem For A Family Business* (Macmillan, £20), was published last month, might well wish he had a time machine at his disposal. Unable to turn back the clock, he is seeking to make the best of a perfectly ghastly situation.

Lord Moyne's problems date to the summer, when he took a controlling stake in Trustor, a Swedish investment company. Nearly £50 million in Trustor funds went missing soon afterwards, passing through Lord Moyne's London bank account en route to an account in Luxembourg. Two Swedes were arrested, a third, Joachim Posener, has vanished, and Lord Moyne has been portrayed as some sort of arch-villain. It is all very distressing.

The offices of Guinness Management, on the sixth floor of the former Saatchi & Saatchi headquarters in Berkeley Square, simply add to the sense of unease. It looks as though the bailiffs have stripped the place — a matter of having the decorators in, I am later assured. The reception area sports red walls, a Persian carpet, some paintings and a cheap-looking brown settee.

"A Swedish journalist who came said it looked like a brothel," Lord Moyne tells me, brimming with indignation. "I've never been in a brothel. It must be the red walls."

Lord Moyne's office itself is a spartan affair. The shelf behind his desk is bare, but for a single Christmas card and a Swedish dictionary. His Swedish has come on well in the past few months.

But what of Trustor? Lord Moyne's version of events is unequivocal. Peter Mattsson, one of those arrested, got him involved with some fellow Swedes, who turned out to be rotten apples. When Lord Moyne and his business associate, Lindsay Smallbone, found out, they took steps to safeguard Trustor shareholders' money. Bruised by events, he nevertheless thinks it could turn out in his favour.

"You can't let it all hang out, because you *are* dealing with other people's secrets half the time," he explains, in a rather deep, urbane, gravelly voice. "And you're also dealing with a whole lot of loose-tongued provincials in the shape of the Swedes, who have all the time been sort of thinking that I'm the ringleader in this thing, when actually what I'm 99 per cent sure I've done is get the shareholders' money back."

Lord Moyne's silence on the affair — broken by a statement saying he had been "let down" by associates — was interpreted as an admission of guilt. "If we'd just gone straight to the police it [the money] would have disappeared. So we had to play along with the criminals, absolutely to the last minute, and then we signed an instruction to the Luxembourg bank saying the money had to be kept." The realisation, in late October, that something was amiss, came as an "appalling shock, especially as one of these Swedes [Mattsson] was, not a close friend, but someone I've known for years".

> ❛ I thought these are decent people, they trust me, I shall trust them ❜

Mattsson was a client of Introcom, a public relations firm of which Lord Moyne is a director, and which is run by Michael Wynne-Parker, a man with "a golden address book" and "staunch and influential friends".

What did Lord Moyne think when the Swedes asked him to act as a front for the purchase of the Trustor shares? "I thought they were tax avoiders — or evaders — that's what I thought." So they offered to pay you to act as a front for them? "That was the deal, yes. It is said, may well be true, that shares were bought with Trustor's own money. If that's the case, and if we get the major money back from Luxembourg, that will actually reimburse Trustor for that."

Will his name be blackened forever? "I think I'll clear my name alright," he says, sounding confident. "It might even end up positive. After all, someone had to take that immediate action to get that money back. I think that in the end, certainly if it's spun right, we ought to look very good."

The Swedes were happy to keep everything in Lord Moyne's name, while receiving dividends and directors' fees. "Come to think of it, it was rather odd," he concedes. "I thought, you know, these are decent people, they're gentlemen, they trust me, *I shall* trust them — a big factor that, come to think of it."

So how much was he paid for his role as front-man? Millions, no doubt? "Certainly not millions. *Somebody found* a note in Joe Posener's desk saying that I was to get 20 million kroner, which is well over a million pounds. I don't know, there may have been such a note, but I *didn't* get *that*."

Why, one wonders, at the grand old age of 67, is Lord Moyne still subjecting himself to this sort of punishment. "I've got *liabilities*," he sighs. "I do really need more than I *can earn as a writer*. I wanted to get a bit of extra income." He is planning a novel about scams — "because I've heard of so many now. Not only first-hand experience, but second-hand. I'm beginning to take a few notes."

Lord Moyne was a merchant banker during the Fifties and Sixties — principally with Leopold Joseph — but had little experience of due diligence. "It was always somebody else who did that. I was mainly on portfolio investments; sometimes brought a deal in, that kind of thing."

The publicity has undoubtedly helped sales of the book: dovetailing, as it does, with the report of the Guinness inspectors. Lord Moyne thinks the report is flawed — it neglected to investigate dealings in Argyll shares, for instance — but says it has its good points. "I don't think it's been a complete waste of time. I think that the [Takeover] Panel is now aware that it shouldn't be too lax, because of certain decisions that encouraged people to think they could get away with it at that time."

Lord Moyne was a director of Guinness from 1961-88. "I felt a bit like a Greek chorus sometimes. In the Greek tragedy, the chorus sort of wails when things are going wrong, and nobody listens to it." The accepted view is that Ernest Saunders was brought in to rescue a flagging production. "Both Saunders and his detractors exaggerate the troubles at Guinness before he got there. The troubles were real, but they weren't immediate. The thing wasn't going bust the next day, but it did need a revival."

Lord Moyne's life has been *anything but dull. The eldest* son of Lady Diana Mitford, and the stepson of Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader, he divided his childhood between England and *Ireland*.

Eton and Oxford led to a three-year stint with Reuters, and hence to merchant banking. He divides his time between London, where he has a house in Bayswater, and Selbridge in County Kildare — the ancestral seat of the Guinness family.

Until two years ago, Lord Moyne lived in Penzance with his girlfriend, Shoe, and their three children, Diana, 16, Astor, 13, and Thomas, 11. They moved to Ireland because of the schools.

Will he persevere with business? "I've rather been put off it, I must say, lately. I will only persevere if I see something really solid and good. And I will do much more investigation than I did before. You've got to put the *hounds* on to the track."

Taxing alibi

THE TIMES
CITY
DIARY

A COUPLE of weeks back I mentioned that Geoffrey Robinson, our hard-working Paymaster General and worth every penny, I say, had cut short a *meeting* with finance industry worthies because of a *pressing* engagement with the Chancellor. Alas, the excuse may be wearing thin. I hear that Robinson, in charge of the Private Finance Initiative, likewise cancelled a meeting with *WS Atkins*, the *consultancy*, because he had an urgent need to see Gordon Brown. A couple of other briefings, too, went the same way. Brown is a hard master, but perhaps Robinson should find another alibi. A sudden need to fly to Guernsey, perhaps?

☐ *AS THE Government plans a crackdown on rowdy tenants, Laing Estates has reached a settlement in a long-running dispute against a temporary occupier of Ferguson House in Marylebone Road. Laing had issued a writ for £2.1 million alleging extensive damage that required complete refurbishment. The parties have settled on £195,000. And who was it that did almost £200,000 of damage (admitted) in just three years? The Health and Safety Executive.*

Set alight

JONATHAN GUINNESS — better known as Lord Moyne and currently the most prominent scion of *la famille maudite* — has been having a rough time over his financial dealings, but things could have been different. Something of an eccentric, he spent three years with Reuters before going into merchant banking in 1956, and admits he should perhaps have stuck with journalism. "Banking looked more interesting."

Not to judge from an incident at Reuters involving his colleague, Hugo Manning, and the agency's theatre critic, known for his impeccable dress sense. "The theatre critic was once very exhausted after going to the theatre and writing his *piece*, so he was sort of sitting on the desk like that" (Moyne feigns lying slumped on desk, face down) "with a whole lot of paper around. Hugo lit the paper with a match. Bloody dangerous. Went all up in flames. I hope he got very badly ticked off."

☐ *THE worm has finally turned at the European Parliament. A Belgian deputy has attacked the cost of 128 new bathrooms being installed in the parliamentary offices at a cost of almost £10,000 apiece. The cost has been inflated by the need to fit an entire new drainage system. This sounds about right for the European Community, except that there is little chance of the bathrooms ever being used. Regulations forbid deputies from spending the night there, and they get a £150-a-night hotel allowance instead.*

Elstein's goal

DAVID ELSTEIN, chief executive of Channel 5, has made a curious appeal to the BBC. If Chelsea or Aston Villa get to a European cup final, Elstein would like the Beeb to hand over its rights to the game to Channel 5. Earlier this year Elstein made an each-way bet that Chelsea and Aston Villa would do well in the European Cup Winners Cup and the UEFA Cup. So far Elstein's football instincts have been sound. Both teams are going strong, providing a ratings boost for Channel 5, which has the rights to the two competitions. The problem is that if either reach a final, Elstein won't get a look in.

The rights to the finals have been bought by the European Broadcasting Union. Channel 5 is not a member of the EBU; the BBC is. "I think the BBC should give us the coverage if Chelsea or Aston Villa are successful," says Elstein, who says that the BBC has shown little interest in the qualifying rounds of either competitions. His case might not be helped by the fact that he famously snatched the England-Poland World Cup qualifier from under the noses of broadcasters such as the BBC. Now he says he would happily let the BBC have extended highlights of the finals — an hour after the game.

MARTIN WALLER

Elstein: appealing to the BBC

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Safeway chief fights for chain trapped between its rivals

IN THE HOT SEAT

[illegible]

Born 1947. Degree in commerce from Liverpool University.
1969: Joins Arthur Andersen as accountant.
1979: Moves to Argyll Foods as financial controller of meat division.
1983: Becomes financial director of Argyll Stores.
1984: Joins Argyll board.
1993: Promoted to chief executive of Argyll (now named Safeway).

All chief executives cast an inquisitive eye over the results of their main competitors. However, for Colin Smith, chief executive of the Safeway supermarket chain, Asda's interim results next Thursday are likely to prove an especially anxious read. A strong performance from Asda is likely to harden the City's impression that Safeway now lies firmly at the bottom of the premier league of supermarket retailers.

Safeway has been under pressure since the collapse of merger talks with Asda in September. It emerged with many in the City believing that it was now in a desperate position and vulnerable to a takeover bid. Its disappointing half-year results — which prompted the largest one-day fall in its share price — only hardened this sentiment. There have even been suggestions that Safeway is set to scale back its much-lauded advertising campaign, featuring those precocious toddlers, Harry and Molly.

There are many in the City who believe that Mr Smith's public handling of Safeway's problems has only worsened the situation. Critics claim that he has implied that the poor results are merely a temporary blip — even an act of God — but hardly the fault of the management. An accountant by training, Mr Smith has also fallen victim to carping that he is merely a bean-counter.

Others, however, argue that he is so immersed in the business that it is inevitable that some of the relationships with the City will suffer. "Colin does run the business and does not spend a lot of time talking to the analysts," says one analyst. "So when things go wrong he has few friends in the City to argue his case." Mr Smith rejects both views, insisting that his apparently low-profile approach is something of a myth. "I spoke to more than 15 institutions on a one-to-one basis immediately after the results," he says. He also argues that the Safeway board is in truth "a lively, fun bunch" — citing his own appearance as Sporty Spice in the company's Christmas job swap literature.

There is, however, broad agreement between Mr Smith and his City critics on where Safeway's problems lie. It appears to be trapped between the other major players in the market, saddled with a large number of antiquated stores, and struggling to solve serious supply problems.

Analysts are particularly concerned about Safeway's vulnerability to a resurgent Sainsbury. Clive Vaughan, of Verdict, the retail researcher, argues that the company's fortunes rise and fall in inverse proportion to those of Sainsbury. When Sainsbury was on the ropes during the past couple of years, Safeway prospered, but now, as Mr Smith freely admits, Sainsbury has been recovering market share — hitting Safeway hard.

Mr Smith's aim is to try to position Safeway farther from Sainsbury, establishing it as the family supermarket. However, analysts believe that there is still a residual belief among consumers that Safeway means high prices. This has left Safeway with a dilemma because as Mr Vaughan says: "Safeway is too weak to arm wrestle with Sainsbury over the longer term."

Mr Smith, however, says that Safeway is introducing several key innovations that establish a niche for the company, including a price promise offering products for free if customers find them cheaper elsewhere. "I have a pretty clear vision for Safeway," Mr Smith says. "It is a food business that really makes *shopping easier for families*."

Even Mr Smith's harshest critics accept that his reign has seen the successful implementation of the Safeway 2000 restructuring programme. It has shifted from a *departmental* system of management to one that is more customer-focused, substantially improving sales per square foot and cutting £60 million from costs. Another analyst *emphasises* innovations such as self-scanning shopping, crèches and discounts for mothers with babies, which other retailers have rushed to explore. "Mr *Smith* has been complimented by imitation," he says.

Here, however, lies Mr Smith's central dilemma — in the ultra-competitive world of retailing, every advantage is *quickly* eroded. And unless he can provide new answers, the City may soon be asking someone else to implement another vision of Safeway's future. Mr Smith, however, remains convinced that the company has an independent future — for the time being. "We are pushing forward with a clear agenda," he says, adding: "At the *moment* our focus has to be on our own business."

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Colin Smith and Safeway's Molly face tough competition

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Energis slips as Lehman downgrades its value

NEWCOMER **Energis** fell sharply after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, began telling clients that the shares are worth 110p less than they were floated at on Monday.

Energis ended the session 13½p down at 275p after Lehman's telecom team began spreading the word that they had set a target price for the shares of 180p. That compares with the 290p they were floated at after the demerger from **National Grid**, 4¼p lower at 285¾p, its parent company. The issue had been more than three times oversubscribed.

But Lehman warns that the long-distance telecom market in this country is fiercely competitive at both the service and facilities levels. This is likely to restrict market share, profitability and margins.

There are now five major players in the long-distance market here compared with only four in the much larger US market. In the meantime, Energis needs to spend more in order to build local access links and merely operate the wide band width network.

The rest of the equity market ended the week on a steadier note. Prices were marked higher at the outset in the face of another sell-off in South Korea.

Investors placed their faith in a rally on Wall Street, in which they were initially proved correct after publication of a surprise drop in US factory gate prices. The Dow Jones industrial average kicked in with an early 55-point rise, but was unable to hold on to it and initial gains were reversed.

The FTSE 100 index closed off its best of the day with a rise of 9.3 at 5,045.2 in the lowest turnover of the week that saw 573 million shares traded. The fall on the week in the index was reduced to 97.7.

Hopes that **Sedgwick**, the insurance broker, may soon find itself at long last on the receiving end of a bid from **Willis Coroon** sent its share price climbing 8½p to a new high for the year of 148p. City speculators claimed last night that the bid could arrive as early as next week. At these levels, the insurance broker carries a price tag of £811 million. **Willis Corroon** was 1½p firmer at 141½p.

Lonrho gave up ground, ending 3½p lower at 89p amid growing speculation that its bid to acquire the JCI mining operation will end in failure. There were also suggestions that Lonrho had run into a hitch about the sale of its Princess hotels chain.

NatWest Markets has produced its top tips for 1998. They include **Shell**, 3p lower at 428p, **ICI**, ½p better at 928½p, **British Aerospace**, up 15p at £17.44, **Pearson**, down 17p at 813p, **Granada** 4p higher at 855p, **Scottish Hydro**, 1p firmer at 499½p, **BG**, 5p higher at 287p, **Royal Bank of Scotland**, 2p harder at 765p, **British Land**, 23p stronger at 673p, **Barclays**, 9p up at £16.36 and the soon to be merged Diageo.

Once again it was the financials that made much of the early running. **Lloyds TSB** eased 1p to 737p. This time it is being tipped to bid for **Northern Rock**, 15p better at 550p. Earlier in the week it was being seen as a potential suitor for **General Accident** ½p harder at £10.54½.

Prudential Corporation ended 13p off at 700p as Lehman Brothers altered its recommendation from "buy" to "outperform". Profit-taking left **Abbey National** 7p lower at £10.28.

BAT Industries responded to positive comments from SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, with a rise of 7p at 544p. It has set a target price of 600p for the shares.

LucasVarity rose 6½p to 199p as brokers continued to ponder the news that the group is selling its diesel engine division to Caterpillar in the US for £803 million. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, rates the shares a "buy", and rival HSBC James Capel has moved from a "hold" to a "buy". Dresdner Kleinwort Benson claimed the shares were undervalued and ABN Amro Hoare Govett was also positive.

There was a clutch of new issues for traders to absorb. The best performance was notched up on AIM by **Gooch & Housego** after a placing of shares in the optical engineer by Sutherlands, the broker, at 105p. The price started life at 123½p before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 23½p at 128½p.

Marchpole Holdings, where Michael Morris is chief executive, also got off to a positive start after a placing at 110p. The price opened at 119½p and raced up to its best of the day, 123½p, a premium of 13½p as almost four million shares changed hands.

General Industries also started life on AIM at 29½p after a placing at 25p. The price finished with a premium of 10p at 35p.

Nomura International, the Japanese securities house which recently established itself as Britain's biggest pub owner with the acquisition of Inntrepreneur, continues to splash out money. This time it has bought a 17.1 per cent stake in **Phytopharm** from **Ethical Holdings**. Phytopharm responded to the news with a rise of 7½p at 53½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: The bond market took heart from the unexpected drop in the November US producer prices, which dealers said reduced some of the pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

But the London market failed to hold on to its best levels as profit-takers moved in towards the close in order to take advantage of some of the strong gains achieved this week.

The Bank of England felt confident enough to issue several tranches of existing stock.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished a tick firmer at £121$\frac{17}{32}$ in active trade that saw 79,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 finished £$\frac{1}{16}$ better at £121$\frac{15}{16}$, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was also a couple of ticks higher at £101$\frac{11}{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Gains were shed as a sell-off in technology shares spread to the larger board. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 21.64 points lower at 7,827.35.

Michael Morris saw Marchpole get off to a good start

Orange, the mobile telephone operator, touched 239p before rallying to limit the loss to 4¾p at 245¼p. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, created the initial markdown after turning bearish about prospects. Word is increased competition and a slowdown in domestic subscribers are to blame.

	Current price	Week's change	
Christie's International	300p	+50½p	Second bid approach
Yule Catto	285p	-21½p	Bids for Holliday Chemicals
HP Bulmer	387½p	-26p	Profits decline
Matthew Clark	184½p	-46p	Profits warning
British Aerospace	£17.44	+79p	Defence industry restructuring
Cassell	66½p	-13p	Profits warning
Railtrack	985p	-124p	Regulatory review
Kingfisher	812p	-38½p	Trading update
Plasmac	225p	+50p	Agreed bid from Aden

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	7827.35 (-21.60)
S&P Composite	951.26 (-3.68)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	15904.30 (-145.85)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	10814.66 (-194.44)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	887.74 (+4.21)

Sydney:

AO	2494.0 (-22.8)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4082.60 (+52.44)

Singapore:

Straits	1632.98 (-31.30)

Brussels:

General	13940.25 (+27.81)

Paris:

CAC-40	2830.26 (+1.81)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1230.60 (+4.80)

London:

FT 30	3235.6 (+6.7)
FTSE 100	5045.2 (+9.3)
FTSE 250	4757.9 (+4.1)
FTSE 350	2431.7 (+4.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2635.72 (-1.34)
FTSE All-Share	2375.46 (+3.82)
FTSE Non Financials	2388.92 (+1.55)
FTSE Fixed Interest	134.41 (+0.2)
FTSE Govt Secs	101.74 (+0.2)
Bargains	43976
SEAQ Volume	571.6m
US$	1.6527 (-0.0008)
German Mark	2.9306 (-0.0016)
Exchange Index	103.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4838
£:SDR	1.2205
RPI	159.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.0 Nov (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Autologic	264½	...
BG 'B'	30½	...
Boustead	20½	...
Bovis Homes	193	+ 4½
Capital Opps Tst	113½	...
Comland Comm	57½	- 2½
Cresco Intl	153½	...
Flmg Geared Uts	177	...
Foresight Tech Wts	25	...
Foresight Tech	85	...
General Inds	35	...
Gooch & Housego	127½	...
Manchester & Lon	270	...
Marchpole	124½	...
Market Link Publ	55	...
Metalsrussia	74½	...
Northern Recrmnt	140	- 2½
Nottingham Frst (70)	54	...
Range Cooker Cmpy	6½	...
Rapid Technology	93½	...
Razorback Vehicles	102½	...
Savoy Asset Mngmt	113½	...
ScS Upholstery	111½	- 2
Seascope Shipping	250	- 3
Second Scot Zr Dv	100	...
Second Scottish	100	...
Sytner	232½	+ 1
Tetra	175½	...
Vanguard Med Wts	42	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

FI Group n/p (640)	195	...
Green Prop n/p (350)	40	...
Taylor Nlsn n/p (60)	15½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Proteus Intl	48½p (+8p)
Photobition	917½p (+55p)
Admiral	695p (+35p)
Hutch Whamp	390p (+16½p)
DCS Gp	290½p (+11p)
Jarvis	353p (+12p)

FALLS:

Waste Mgt Intl	185p (-9p)
Biocomps Intl	595p (-27½p)
Rio Tinto	718p (-32p)
Tesco	485p (-12p)
Carpetright	455p (-7p)
Prudential	700p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Saatchi & co reborn

THE TWO halves of Cordiant will go their separate ways on Monday, when trading will begin in Saatchi & Saatchi and Cordiant Communications Group. Investors will have one share in each for every two shares they held in old Cordiant. Although both advertising companies are set to open at 112p, the prices may quickly diverge. While Saatchi & Saatchi is expected to more or less hold its ground, CCG may fall closer to 100p because of its greater exposure to the turmoil in Far East markets.

Some observers, including Merrill Lynch, remain to be convinced that the demerger makes sense at a time when other advertising and media groups are coming together.

However, quite apart from the internal political problems, there are two reasons for suggesting that, in the longer term, the two pieces might be worth more than the unified whole. Bates, the core of CCG, has missed out on some advertising contracts, particularly in the US, simply because of conflicts of interest that go all the way back to the Saatchi brothers original acquisition of the group.

But perhaps the strongest reason for believing that good can come of the exercise is the powerful incentive package that has been put in place. About 140 executives are investing between £50,000 and £150,000 of their own money in the hope that they can turn this into between £800,000 and £2.4 million if they can perform miracles over the next three years.

Although the highest performance targets may, quite properly, be beyond the ad men, revitalising the culture may enable outside shareholders to share in the uplift in value.

Caradon

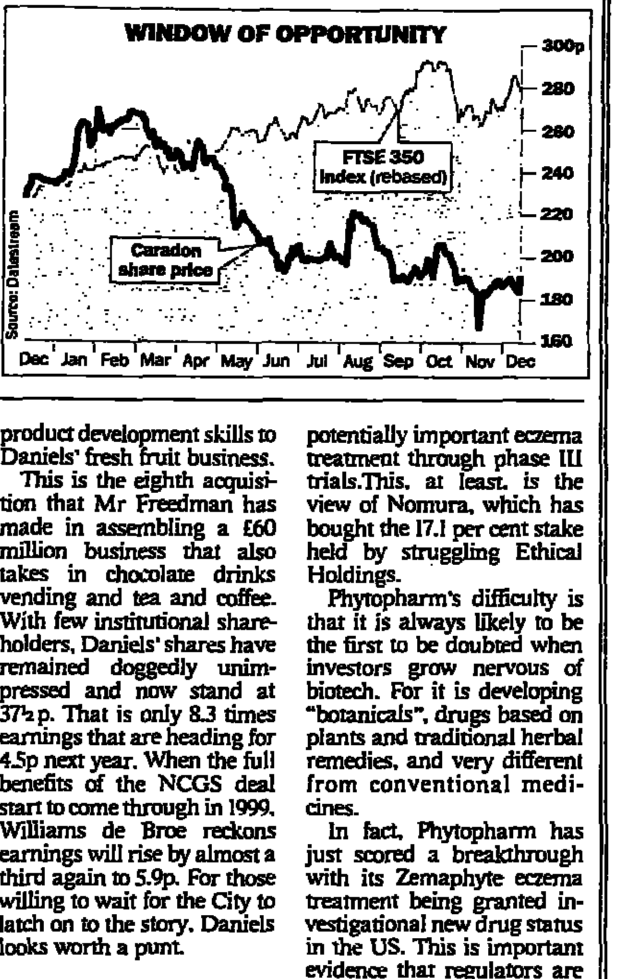
CARADON has an image problem. Some institutions have shown stockbrokers the door even for suggesting they should buy shares in the building materials group. Having Trefor Llewellyn, the former finance director of Wickes, as Caradon's numbers man was sure to unnerve investors, though Mr Llewellyn denied any knowledge of the rebate misuse that caused the Wickes accounting irregularities. Having been burned once, investors are also wary of housing-related sectors.

Caradon is changing, however. Mr Llewellyn has gone but more important is the arrival next May of Jurgen Hintz, who will take over as chief executive with a strong reputation from running Carnaud Metalbox. In the meantime, Caradon is buying back its shares, buying in another 800,000 yesterday.

Costs have been coming down, although the market for showers, doors and suchlike is still difficult, reflected in the 10 per cent discount to the market that plagues well-run firms in the sector. If there is a knock-on effect from the release of capital receipts to local authority housing departments, Caradon will be a major beneficiary.

Caradon still has problems with its US aluminium windows business — customers seem to prefer plastic. Yet the discount of about 35 per cent to the market understates the potentional for turning this company around. Buy at 185½p.

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY



S Daniels

MAKING a mess of running food companies is all too easy — look at Yorkshire Food. One reason to hope S Daniels will escape similar blunders is that Cyril Freedman and Michael Mills, the ambitious duo who took over two-and-a-half years ago, set to work with a clear analysis of the sector's problems and some persuasive remedies.

At first sight, this week's £22 million deal to buy the New Covent Garden Soup Company contradicts that analysis, since the business is heavily dependent on the supermarket chains. But although the NCGS has lost share to the supermarkets' own fresh soups, it has continued to benefit from the rapid growth in the market. Additionally, there is a big opportunity to increase sales to pubs and the catering trade, to piggy back on Daniels' orange juice distribution network, and to extend the NCGS brand and product development skills to Daniels' fresh fruit business.

This is the eighth acquisition that Mr Freedman has made in assembling a £60 million business that also takes in chocolate drinks vending and tea and coffee. With few institutional shareholders, Daniels' shares have remained doggedly unimpressed and now stand at 37½p. That is only 8.3 times earnings that are heading for 4.5p next year. When the full benefits of the NCGS deal start to come through in 1999, Williams de Broe reckons earnings will rise by almost a third again to 5.9p. For those willing to wait for the City to latch on to the story, Daniels looks worth a punt.

Phytopharm

EVEN by the dismal standards of the biotech sector, Phytopharm has had a rotten year, its value falling by three quarters to only £14 million. This is a pathetic amount for a company that has steered a potentially important eczema treatment through phase III trials. This, at least, is the view of Nomura, which has bought the 17.1 per cent stake held by struggling Ethical Holdings.

Phytopharm's difficulty is that it is always likely to be the first to be doubted when investors grow nervous of biotech. For it is developing "botanicals", drugs based on plants and traditional herbal remedies, and very different from conventional medicines.

In fact, Phytopharm has just scored a breakthrough with its Zemaphyte eczema treatment being granted investigational new drug status in the US. This is important evidence that regulators are prepared to take these medicines seriously.

For Zemaphyte and other promising products to reach the market will require a much bigger leap of faith from regulators. The same is true for investors tempted to follow Nomura.

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	1115-1106	Mar	1222-1218
Mar	1138-1137	May	1245-1236
May	1158-1157	Jul	1260-1250
Jul	1175-1170	Sep	1270-1265
Sep	1193-1190		
Dec	1205-1200		Volume: 10059

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1780 BID	Sep	unq
Mar	1780-1775	Nov	—
May	unq	Jan	—
Jul	—		Volume: 4689

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	308.0-06.0
Spot: 295.1		Dec	308.0-07.5
Mar	306.5-06.0	Mar	310.5-08.0
May	312.5-11.0	May	313.5-06.0
Aug	314.5-12.5		Volume: 1566

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 11

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	65.45	91.83	93.03
(+/-)	+2.53	-2.36	+0.82
Eng/Wales:	65.45	92.38	91.46
(+/-)	+2.85	-2.74	-0.50
(%)	+19.0	+29.0	+43.0
Scotland:	unq	88.74	99.51
(+/-)	—	-0.72	+6.19
(%)	—	+13.0	+55.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.15	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.65	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.75	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.35	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.60	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	177 (-3)	182 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	161 (+2)	163 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	83 (-1)	85 (-1)
Naphtha	173 (n/c)	175 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	161.50-61.75	Apr	162.50-63.00
Feb	162.25-62.50	May	162.75 SLR
Mar	162.25-62.75		Vol: 12032

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.61-17.63	Apr	17.81 BID
Feb	17.71-17.73	May	17.82 BID
Mar	17.78-17.79		Vol: 27215

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	81.75	Jan	75.40
Mar	84.00	Mar	78.20
May	86.00	May	79.15
Jul	88.00	Sep	79.00
Sep	81.75	Nov	81.00
Volume: 607		Volume: n/a	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	91.0
Apr	109.5	113.5
May	119.5	123.5
		Volume: 103

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 46.00-46.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 97	1300	1290	1295
Jan 98	1305	1250	1250
Feb 98	1275	1275	1235
Apr 98	1300	1300	1300
Vol: 138 lots		Open interest: 1631	

Index 1287 (+21)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1784.0-1785.0	1817.0-1818.0	1203850
Lead ($/tonne)	518.00-519.00	535.00-536.00	335300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1115.5-1116.5	1137.0-1138.0	24031
Tin ($/tonne)	5460.0-5470.0	5380.0-5385.0	27375
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1537.0-1537.5	1560.0-1560.5	2662925
Nickel ($/tonne)	6125.0-6135.0	6230.0-6225.0	141618

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	120-27	121-11	120-26	120-30	7541
Previous open interest 193709	Mar 98	121-19	122-00	121-08	121-17	80774
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 98	104.33	104.72	104.27	104.60	148308
Previous open interest 257588	Jun 98	103.70	103.98	103.70	104.00	174
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Mar 98	103.85	104.11	103.85	104.03	5476
Previous open interest 8537	Jun 98				103.45	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 98	115.20	115.64	115.18	115.45	38770
Previous open interest 112701	Jun 98				114.87	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	129.80	130.15	129.78	130.15	2050
	Jun 98				129.540	
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.31	92.31	92.30	92.31	6370
	Mar 98	92.35	92.37	92.34	92.36	22223
Previous open interest 800284	Jun 98	92.47	92.50	92.45	92.46	18551
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.25	96.25	96.23	96.24	33754
Previous open interest 1949773	Mar 98	96.16	96.19	96.15	96.19	60261
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.88	93.93	93.88	93.92	16526
Previous open interest 603753	Mar 98	94.78	94.79	94.75	94.76	15567
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	98.33	98.44	98.32	98.39	4555
Previous open interest 164327	Mar 98	98.22	98.35	98.22	98.29	15221
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.49	95.50	95.49	95.49	913
Previous open interest 39327	Mar 98	95.46	95.50	95.46	95.50	1283
FTSE 100	Dec 97	5055.0	5087.0	5027.0	5049.0	9660
Previous open interest 66840	Mar 98	5110.0	5134.5	5088.0	5099.5	4864

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8 Low 7 Week fixed: 7¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7 ; 3 mth 7 . Sell: 2 mth 6¾ ; 3 mth: 6¾ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.86	n/a	5.79	5.82	5.93
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applctns: £457m allotted: £100m: Bids: £98.34% received: 32%: Last week: £98.235% received: 60%; Avge rate: £7.0303% last wk £7.0653%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $283.00-283.30 Close: $282.40-282.90 High: $283.25-283.75 Low: $281.70-282.20 AM: $283.05 PM: $283.00

Krugerrand: $287.00-289.00 (£176.00-178.00)

Platinum: $361.00 (£218.43) Silver: $5.90 (£3.575) Palladium: $201.25 (£121.77)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 12	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2996-3.3107	3.2996-3.3028	1¼-1pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	60.419-60.620	60.419-60.521	23-18pr	62-55pr
Copenhagen	11.153-11.189	11.153-11.163	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1242-1.1366	1.1264-1.1309	16-10pr	54-47pr
Frankfurt	2.9281-2.9380	2.9281-2.9311	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	299.38-300.14	299.38-299.73	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	247.63-248.29	247.63-247.95	59-48pr	175-156pr
Milan	2868.5-2878.1	2868.5-2872.7	39-23pr	116-94pr
Montreal	2.3401-2.3746	2.3464-2.3487	0.69-0.64pr	1.42-1.33pr
New York	1.6517-1.6638	1.6517-1.6527	0.228-0.207pr	0.713-0.682pr
Oslo	11.983-12.036	11.998-12.013	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.8086-9.8410	9.8086-9.8162	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.819-12.897	12.819-12.835	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	215.15-215.93	215.15-215.44	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	20.601-20.667	20.601-20.623	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3679-2.3776	2.3679-2.3708	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5087-1.5098
Austria	12.47-12.48
Belgium (Com)	36.59-36.63
Canada	1.4174-1.4179
Denmark	6.7519-6.7539
France	5.9372-5.9420
Germany	1.7731-1.7734
Hong Kong	7.7485-7.7495
Ireland	1.4646-1.4666
Italy	1736.75-1737.75
Japan	130.20-130.30
Malaysia	3.8125-3.8225
Netherlands	1.9982-1.9987
Norway	7.2410-7.2412
Portugal	181.20-181.30
Singapore	1.6540-1.6560
Spain	149.94-150.04
Sweden	7.7679-7.7755
Switzerland	1.4340-1.4350

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6523-1.6550
Australia dollar	2.4956-2.4990
Bahrain dinar	0.6195-0.6335
Brazil real*	1.8347-1.8392
China yuan	13.617-13.917
Cyprus pound	0.8530-0.8720
Finland markka	8.7850-8.9269
Greece drachma	456.0-466.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.8052-12.8107
India rupee	65.36-66.66
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5010-0.5120
Malaysia ringgit	6.2995-6.3190
New Zealand dollar	2.7701-2.7751
Pakistan rupee	71.65 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9825-6.1175
Singapore dollar	2.7334-2.7375
S Africa rand (com)	8.0530-8.2220
U A E dirham	6.0375-6.1735

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	407	Legal & Gn	1,600
ASDA Gp	3,900	Lloyds TSB	4,100
Abbey Ntl	2,000	LucasVarity	15,000
Allnce & Leic	841	Marks Spr	3,300
Allied Dom	737	NatWst Bk	3,100
AB Foods	161	Nat Grid	3,400
BAA	2,700	Nat Power	3,500
BAT Inds	1,500	Next	1,800
BG	5,300	Norwich Un	3,200
BOC	827	Orange	284
BP	5,000	P & O	612
BSkyB	21,600	Pearson	1,400
BTR	15,400	PowerGen	852
BT	6,900	Prudential	1,300
Bk of Scot	1,300	RMC	197
Barclays	1,500	Railtrack	3,300
Bass	1,200	Rank Group	1,100
Billiton	4,700	Reckitt Col	167
Blue Circle	1,800	Reed Intl	2,700
Boots	889	Rentokil	1,400
BAe	688	Reuters	4,200
BA	3,100	Rio Tinto	2,300
British Land	478	Rolls Royce	1,300
Brit Steel	6,600	Royal & Sun	3,500
Cable Wire	3,800	Royal Bk Sct	1,700
Cadbury	990	Safeway	2,000
Carlton Cms	3,800	Sainsbury	2,200
Centrica	10,400	Schroders	33
Cm Union	664	Scot & New	287
Dixons	1,000	Scot Power	1,200
EMI	1,700	Svrn Trent	501
Energy Gp	1,100	Shell Trans	11,000
Enterpr Oil	1,200	Siebe	721
GKN	843	SmKl Bch	6,400
GRE	2,000	Smiths Inds	132
GUS	2,100	Std Chartd	1,600
Gen Acc	344	Sun Life	1,200
Gen Elec	5,400	TI Gp	1,000
Glaxo Well	2,800	Tesco	3,200
Granada	2,600	Thames W	970
Grand Met	5,100	Tomkins	3,800
Guinness	2,300	Unilever	5,200
HSBC	2,300	Utd Utilities	821
Halifax	4,600	Utd News	354
Hays	370	Vodafone	9,400
ICI	935	Whitbread	492
Kingfisher	1,100	Williams	8,200
LASMO	2,500	Wolseley	1,700
Ladbroke	1,300	Woolwich	5,100
Land Secs	313	Zeneca	1,200

WALL STREET

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

NEWS

Robinson 'kept Treasury in dark'

■ Geoffrey Robinson, the minister under pressure over his financial affairs, was accused of being "economical with the truth" when seeking advice from senior civil servants. The charge was made by Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, who claimed that Mr Robinson had kept the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury in the dark about the nature of his Guernsey-based trust and that his conduct conflicted with the code of conduct for ministers .... **Pages 1, 18, 19, 20**

Blair claims victory in euro battle

■ Britain and France remained locked in a ferocious battle over the single currency with both sides claiming victory after a deal on membership of the "club" managing the euro ..... **Pages 1, 23**

Labour's radio threat

Labour is to pull ministers off the air if *Today* presenter John Humphrys persists in interrupting them .... **Page 2**

Music world shocked

Vincent Meyer, president of the Philharmonia Orchestra, was formally accused in Switzerland of manslaughter, rape and sexual acts against a minor .... **Page 3**

Sporting rules

Independent school pupils who shout abuse at opposing players or officials should be banned from sports events .... **Page 4**

Heathrow inquiry

Experts are investigating how a fire above a hamburger restaurant at Heathrow's Terminal One paralysed the airport .... **Page 5**

BBC shoots down jet

A *Panorama* programme criticising the £40 b Eurofighter project is going ahead, despite the threat of libel action .... **Page 6**

Churchill's art

The largest exhibition of Churchill's paintings next month will prove that he was more than just an enthusiastic amateur .... **Page 8**

'Labour whingers'

Women Labour MPs who complain about sexism are spoilt and over-sensitive, say their Tory counterparts .... **Page 10**

Thai agony

Thai matrons are leasing out their Gucci handbags and Versace outfits as the baht takes a battering. Young executives are trying to sell their mobile telephones ... **Page 13**

Kremlin denial

The Kremlin was at pains to dismiss reports that President Yeltsin is seriously ill .... **Page 14**

Child support

In a week when runaways were big news, Libby Purves says to coddle and hothouse a child pose different dangers .... **Page 17**

A virtual merry Christmas to you

■ Traditional seasonal tidings are taking the most modern route via e-mail as the number of people with electronic mail addresses increases each day. The fad this Christmas is to send virtual cards to colleagues, friends and family .... **Page 1**

EPA / CHRISTIES

A model of victorious Zulu impis over the British Army in the 1879 Zulu War was among an auction of toy soldiers from the Forbes collection

NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove: Colin Blakemore's single-minded dedication to careful eating springs from his awareness of mortality .... **Page 21**

Radio star: Britain now has a media tycoon who speaks directly to his customers nationwide over breakfast each day, sharing his thoughts on the state of the nation. It sounds like a joke character from a movie. In fact, it is Chris Evans .... **Page 9**

Villa D'Este: Borgia's fountains, infested with salmonella, are threatened with closure .... **Page 11**

OPINION

Blair's X factor: Tony Blair and his Chancellor retreat from Luxembourg as the familiar "born losers" of Euro-diplomacy .... **Page 23**

Values of the heart: Philip Lawrence's sacrifice and values should not be forgotten and the more who can commit themselves to supporting the ideals of good citizenship, the more effective the commemoration of his powerful example .... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Isas, Tessas and Peps; beef ban; rural life .... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Commercial television this Christmas will be "brought to you" by the Panasonic Corporation of Japan .... **Page 22**

Roger Scruton: Which group of law-abiding people will be next to offend the suburban prudes who govern us? The answer for the moment is clear: smokers .... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Simon Jeffes, composer and leader of the Penguin Café Orchestra; **R.J. Washington**, potter; **Rod Milburn**, American athlete .... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Asian crisis: The IMF will debate new ways to help countries cope with financial crises in Asia .... **Page 27**

South West Water: South West Water is paying up to £105 million for Terry Adams Ltd, a waste disposal group with sites across England. The deal makes South West one of the leading landfill companies in the country .... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 9.3 points to close at 5045.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell to $1.6527 and to DM2.9306 .... **Page 31**

SPORT

Football: Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were each given a suspended six-month suspension and a £10,000 fine for misconduct .... **Page 33**

Rugby union: Clubs in England's top divisions welcome back their players after a month of internationals .... **Page 41**

Cricket: England secured victory in the women's World Cup .... **Page 35**

Racing: Sheikh Mohammed is being asked to address MPs and peers about his threat to leave British racing .... **Page 42**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Chelsea's top man: The coolest football manager Ruud Gullit .... **Page 8**

Chemical agents: Super sleuths in Iraq ..... **Page 16**

Season of ill will: The charity con men .... **Page 37**

Food: Marco Pierre White reveals the best-value Michelin-starred restaurant in London .... **Page 53**

metro

Interview: Sting on life and death .... **Page 6**

Comedy: Chat with Ardal O'Hanlon .... **Page 10**

Music: Box sets .... **Page 13**

Books: The millennium man .... **Page 16**

Film: Cinders ...... **Page 24**

Listings: Theatre, clubs, opera, dance, exhibitions, pantos .... **Pages 28-47**

WEEKEND

Little devils: Inside the Westminster Abbey Choir School .... **Pages 1,3**

Fashion: Dresses to make your boss blush ..... **Page 5**

Home life: The stress of Christmas for divorced couples .... **Page 11**

Travel: India; New York; Chile; Austria; Switzerland .... **Pages 19-25**

Vision

Full seven-day guide to television and radio

m@g@

Kids' comic with Disney's smash Christmas film

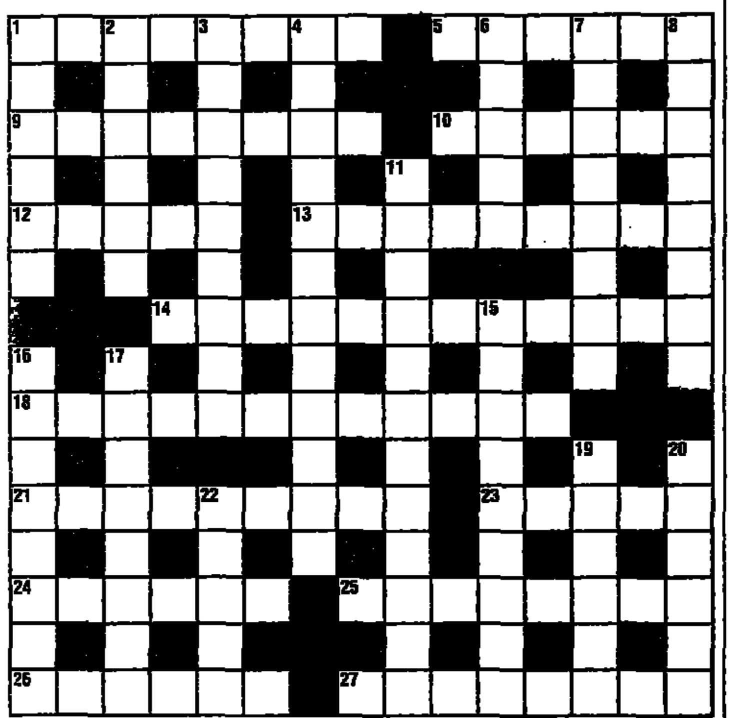
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,662

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



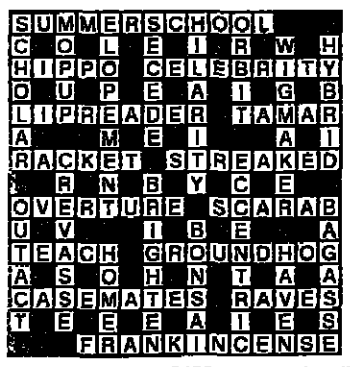
ACROSS

1 Boring collection of notes (8).
5 Missile to face Chinese craft (6).
9 The old-fashioned term "charisma" needs changing (8).
10 Mix socially with aristocrat that's on the shelf (6).
12 Ill-mannered whether head is present or not (5).
13 Its leader takes a bow (9).
14 Key man in hair of vivid hue (8,4).
18 Choosing the same person again to collect cement (12).
21 Derby date arranged for Flyte's animal Aloysius (5-4).
23 Not within respectable limits? (5).
24 Inhibition, getting ring off (4-2).
25 Hitting out (8).
26 Drag into the river and drown (6).
27 Discontinue session with publicity agent, a scoundrel (8).

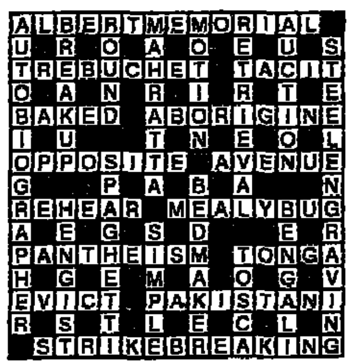
DOWN

1 Discover about new form of ecstasy (6).
2 Make good theatre available across half of county (6).
3 Peas and chips cooked together in vessel — out of this world! (9).
4 Failed to understand how girl, so to speak, got pregnant (12).
6 Came to give permission in fear (5).
7 Alternative for plait on youth's head? (8).
8 State breaks out in an uprising (8).
11 One who renders the raw material for soap (12).
15 Has he travelled right round Lido? Possibly (9).
16 Wife was sick and miserable (8).
17 Such very important points seen in news (8).
19 A number of horses making way to arena (6).
20 On foot, hunt for black bird (6).
22 What, after start of year, old antelope raised? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,656



Solution to Puzzle No 20,661



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *I Downing, West Cowes, Isle of Wight; P Holden, Lower Green, Tewin, Herts; D Linehan, Evesham, Worcs; M Barnett, Kearsley, Bolton; D I Meyrick, Fleet, Hants.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.53 am	3.52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
6.42 am	3.59 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 3.52 pm to 7.59 am
Bristol 4.01 pm to 8.08 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.37 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.15 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.14 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.59 am	3.52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
7.46 am	4.49 pm

Full moon today

London 3.52 pm to 8.00 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.09 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.38 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.19 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.15 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00.13	7.3	12.32	7.2
Aberdeen	-	-	12.09	4.4
Avonmouth	05.44	12.1	18.10	13.6
Belfast	09.37	3.5	21.54	3.6
Cardiff	05.30	12.1	17.56	12.8
Devonport	04.15	5.5	16.36	5.6
Dover	09.33	6.8	21.59	6.8
Dublin (N Wall)	10.22	4.2	22.31	4.4
Falmouth	03.46	5.3	16.07	5.4
Greenock	11.10	3.5	23.37	3.7
Harwich	10.20	4.0	22.55	4.2
Holyhead	08.57	5.7	21.11	5.9
Hull (Albert D)	04.36	6.7	17.18	6.7
Ilfracombe	04.30	9.2	16.54	9.6
King's Lynn	04.40	7.0	17.23	6.8
Leith	00.46	5.6	13.20	5.8
Liverpool	09.51	9.5	22.10	9.8
Lowestoft	07.36	2.6	20.28	2.5
Margate	10.21	4.2	23.08	4.8
Milford Haven	04.45	6.9	17.08	7.2
Newquay	03.39	6.9	16.01	7.2
Oban	04.27	3.8	16.48	4.2
Penzance	03.03	5.5	15.30	5.7
Portland	05.06	2.2	17.27	2.2
Portsmouth	09.59	4.9	22.16	4.8
Shoreham	09.41	6.4	22.05	6.3
Southampton	09.21	4.9	21.40	4.7
Swansea	04.54	9.6	17.16	9.9
Tees	01.54	5.5	14.32	5.5
Walton-on-N	10.12	4.2	22.47	4.4

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Scaleadum/Barry Hill, Cumbria, 02C (36F); highest rainfall: St Bees Head, Cumbria, 0.23in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 7.7hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 42.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** eastern Scotland will be mostly dry with some good sunny breaks, but western Scotland will be cloudy with a little rain at times. Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with early sunshine giving way to an increasing risk of light rain during the afternoon. England and Wales will have a bright, fresh day with patchy cloud and sunshine, before a frost sets in after dark. It will feel rather cold in the South and East, but milder in the North and West.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Cent S England, Midlands, E England, Channel Isles, SW England, Cent N, NE England:** dry with good spells of sunshine, but a frost early and late. A light northwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** dry and bright at first but becoming more cloudy by afternoon. A light westerly wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny intervals at first, but clouding over. A moderate northwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

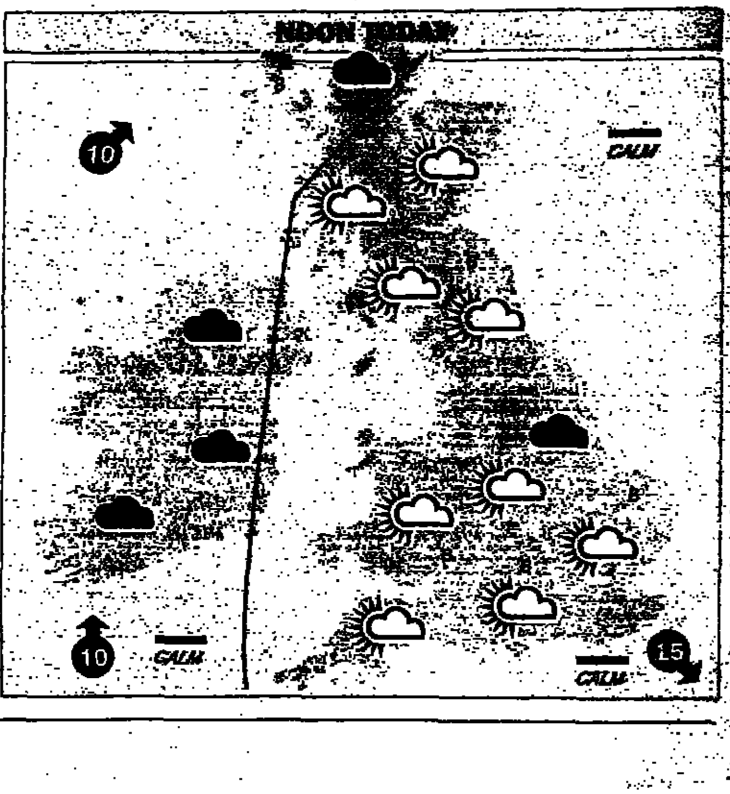
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain later. A light or moderate southwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** a few bright spells at first; mostly cloudy with light rain later. A moderate southwesterly wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mainly dry with some bright or sunny spells but cloud thickening with rain, likely to be heavy in places, during the afternoon and evening. Wind freshening southerly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** mostly dry and bright with some sunshine, but increasingly cold with sharp night frosts. Southern and eastern England will have a noticeable wind-chill early next week with a growing risk of light snow flurries.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

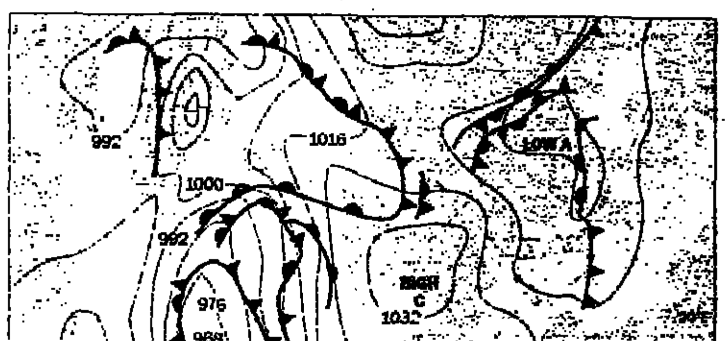
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.5	0.01	5	41	b
Anglesey	2.9	0.02	10	50	b
Aspatria	2.0	0.01	6	43	b
Aviemore	0.5	0.01	5	41	c
Belfast	2.2	0.07	6	43	s
Birmingham	4.5	-	7	45	s
Bognor R	7.7	-	8	46	s
Bournem'th	5.5	-	11	52	s
Bristol	6.5	-	10	50	s
Buxton	5.5	0.05	5	41	s
Cardiff	5.2	0.01	10	50	s
Clacton	5.7	0.02	7	45	s
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	1.6	0.01	10	50	c
Cromer	0.4	0.11	9	48	sh
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	X				
Edinburgh	2.3	-	6	43	s
Eskdalemuir	1.1	0.01	3	37	c
Exmouth	7.0	0.03	9	48	s
Falmouth	4.2	0.07	11	52	s
Fishguard	3.3	0.13	9	48	sh
Folkestone	7.2	0.02	8	46	s
Glasgow	2.4	-	7	45	b
Guernsey	X				
Hastings	6.8	-	9	48	s
Hayling I	6.5	-	9	46	s
Herne Bay	5.4	0.01	7	45	b
Hove	4.5	-	10	50	s
Hunstanton	X	0.02	7	45	b
Isle-of-man	2.9	0.01	9	48	s
Isle-of-wight	7.0	-	9	48	s
Jersey	6.5	0.04	11	52	s
Kinloss	*0.1*	*0.01*	*7*	*45*	*b*
Leeds	4.7	0.01	7	45	s
Lerwick	2.1	0.01	7	45	b
Leuchars	3.5	-	5	41	s
Littlehmptn	7.1	-	11	52	s
London	7.0	0.01	9	48	s
Lowestoft	1.5	0.05	8	46	sh
Manchester	4.8	0.01	8	46	s
Margate	3.9	0.03	9	48	b
Minehead	5.5	0.03	11	52	s
Morecambe	3.0	0.01	8	46	s
Newcastle	3.5	0.04	6	43	b
Newquay	4.3	0.01	10	50	b
Norwich	0.2	0.09	8	46	c
Oxford	6.4	0.01	8	46	s
Penzance	X	0.01	13	55	s
Poole	6.3	-	10	50	s
Prestatyn	X				
Ross-o-wye	6.2	-	9	48	s
Salcombe	X				
Saunton Snd	4.5	0.03	11	52	s
Scarboro'	4.2	0.16	6	43	s
Shrewsbury	3.9	0.01	8	46	b
Skegness	4.3	0.10	7	45	s
Southend	7.1	0.01	11	52	b
Southport	1.7	-	9	48	b
Southsea	*6.5*	-	*11*	*52*	s
Stornoway	0.1	0.09	8	46	sh
Swanage	7.2	-	10	50	s
Teignmouth	6.8	0.01	11	52	s
Tenby	4.4	0.05	10	50	s
Tiree	0.6	0.08	10	50	sh
Torquay	7.0	-	11	52	s
Tynemouth	-	-	6	43	b
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	*6.5*	-	*11*	*52*	s

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	c
Akrotiri	19	66	s
Alex'dria	16	64	f
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	13	55	f
Athens	15	59	s
B Aires	31	88	s
Bahrain	22	72	s
Bangkok	31	88	s
Barbados	25	77	c
Barcelona	14	57	f
Beirut	19	66	f
Belgrade	8	46	s
Berlin	10	50	c
Bermuda	23	73	s
Biarritz	18	64	s
Borde'x	16	61	f
Brussels	13	55	f
Budapst	2	36	s
Cairo	*18*	*64*	*c*
Cape Tn	27	81	s
Ch'church	X		
Chicago	1	34	f
Cologne	11	52	f
Corfu	15	59	f
C'phagn	7	45	c
Dublin	8	46	c
Dubrovnik	11	52	f
Faro	16	61	c
Florence	8	46	c
Frankfurt	11	52	f
Funchal	22	72	c
Geneva	9	48	r
Gibraltar	18	64	s
Helsinki	-1	30	d
Hong K	14	57	f
Innsbrck	6	43	r
Istanbul	9	48	s
Jeddah	30	86	s
Jo'burg	26	79	f
Karachi	X		
L Angels	17	63	s
L Palmas	24	75	s
Le Touquet	*12*	*54*	*f*
Lisbon	17	63	c
Locarno	6	43	f
Luxembg	12	54	c
Luxor	20	68	c
Madrid	8	46	c
Majorca	17	63	s
Malaga	18	64	s
Malta	19	66	f
Melb'rne	28	82	s
Mexico C	X		
Miami	29	84	s
Milan	7	45	c
Montreal	-8	21	X
Moscow	-5	23	c
Munich	10	50	r
N Delhi	15	59	f
N York	1	34	f
Nairobi	23	73	c
Naples	16	59	f
Nice	11	52	f
Oslo	4	39	d
Paris	14	57	c
Peking	2	36	s
Perth	30	86	s
Prague	10	50	r
Reykjavik	0	32	c
Rhodes	14	57	s
Rio de J	29	84	f
Riyadh	19	66	s
Rome	*14*	*57*	*f*
S Fr'isco	12	54	s
Salzburg	7	45	r
Santiago	21	70	s
Seoul	-3	27	s
Sing'por	26	79	t
St'kholm	3	37	fg
Strasb'rg	12	54	c
Sydney	23	73	s
Tangier	18	64	s
Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Tenerife	25	77	s
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	-3	27	c
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	16	61	s
Vanc'ver	5	41	f
Venice	5	41	c
Vienna	*10*	*50*	*c*
Warsaw	9	48	f
Wash'ton	8	46	f
Wel'ngton	14	57	X
Zurich	10	50	r

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high C will build and drift northeastwards; low K will move north and is expected to fill; complex low A will fill while drifting southeastwards

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SHOPPING

Party dresses to make your boss blush

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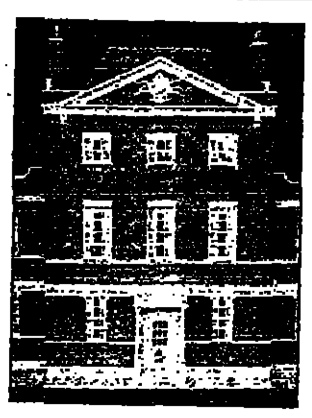
PROPERTY



Would you pay £20,000 for this bijou residence?

Page 12

TRAVEL

Where the stars stay in London and New York

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PETS

Santa's gifts to sleigh Bonzo and Felix

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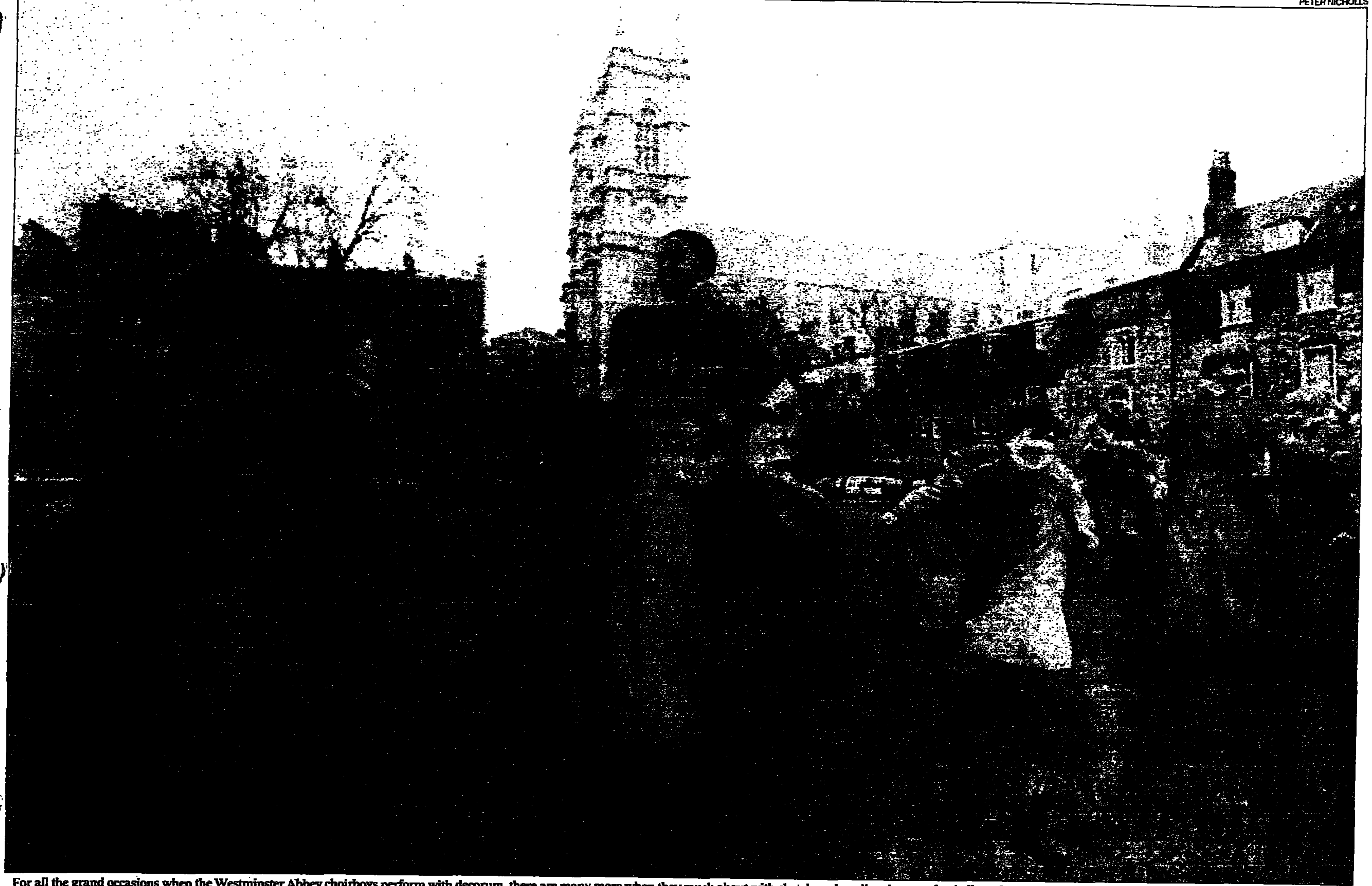
THE TIMES
WEEKEND
SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

Little devils who turn into angels

PETER NICHOLLS



For all the grand occasions when the Westminster Abbey choirboys perform with decorum, there are many more when they muck about with skateboards, roller-skates or footballs — the match against St Paul's choir is as bitter as any London derby

Robed and ready to sing their hearts out: the boys file into the abbey for a rehearsal

Andrew Yates (right, 25 years ago) goes behind the scenes at Westminster Abbey Choir School to see how a bunch of boys turn into an angelic host

On Monday, September 1 this year, little more than 24 hours after Diana, Princess of Wales had been killed in a car crash in Paris, Martin Neary, the organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey, was given guidelines for the funeral service.

After hearing of the crash, he had spent most of his time trying to anticipate what music might be requested if the service was to be held at the abbey. And by lunchtime on Monday it was clear that he would have to bring the choristers back from their summer holidays. One boy was in Brazil, one was in Canada and another in Portugal. But they managed to get flights to join their colleagues in time for the first rehearsal at the Abbey's song school on Wednesday evening. The choirboys had plenty to do, as one of them explained: "There was a great deal of music to learn and the full service details were still not complete."

The next couple of days involved a mixture of rehearsals in the Abbey's song school and free time. "We managed to play football, swim, play table-tennis, snooker and, of course, watch television to see if we were mentioned — which we were most days," he said. "It was strange to see it all on television when we knew that the events were all taking place just outside our school."

Dr Neary began that first evening rehearsal for the funeral service by asking the boys to think how they would feel if their mother had died, since Prince Harry

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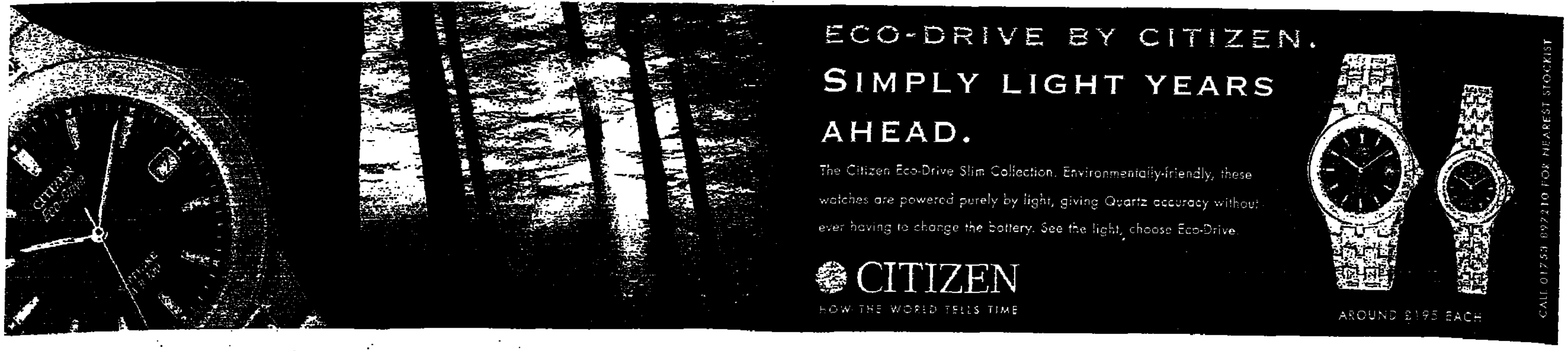

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'Stamping the Union flag on burgers will do no more for beef sales than it did for British motorbikes or bags of coal'

Just beefing about meat is not the answer

A 40-tonne juggernaut with Irish number plates crawls past the huddle of jeering Welsh beef farmers picketing the dockyard road. As it rumbles slowly by, a grey-haired man, the rain dripping from his bush hat, stares in disbelief at the seemingly endless trailer. "How the hell many beefburgers can they get in that great thing?" he mutters.

The answer is a very large number. And for every load the port protesters succeed in dumping in the sea there will be score or more similar trucks en route to other UK entry points.

The present plight of British beef farmers owes less to an uncomprehending and hostile government than to the machinations of a global food system. So completely have we consumers swallowed the notion of our foods being processed, flavour-enhanced, tenderised and generally mucked about with, that the products on our supermarket shelves can be sourced from almost anywhere on the planet.

When a new cattle disease puts a question mark against the safety of British beef, the multinational burger chains can switch their sourcing countries as easily as they change staff uniforms. When international currency swings present supermarkets with a chance to buy cheaper and to boost their margins, they would have to be saints to turn it down, particularly as their customers are never likely to know the difference.

It is the instant ability of international food brokers to manipulate the flow of processed products which is a primary cause of the beef market collapse.

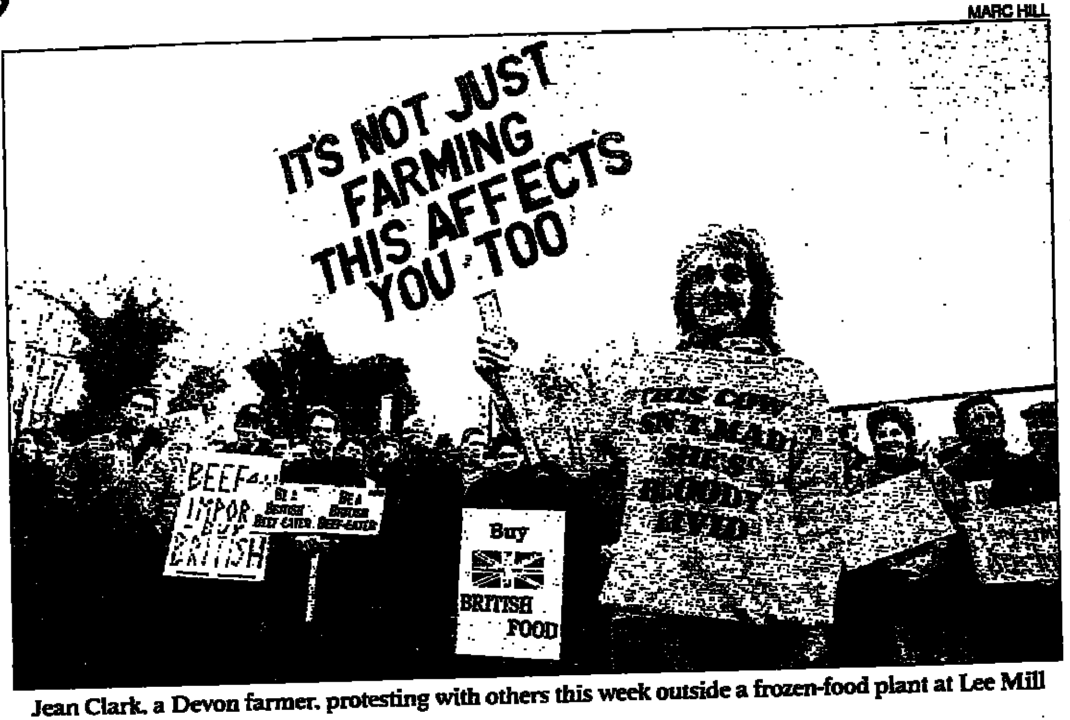
The response of beleaguered UK producers is to launch what is, in effect, a "Buy British" campaign. This certainly makes more sense than the floating of freezer packs of Irish beef out into Liverpool Bay. But it remains doubtful whether stamping the Union flag on a box of burgers will do any more for sales than it did for British motorbikes or bags of coal.

To secure their future in the long term, farmers will need to change public attitudes to food. They will have to convince the people of these islands that the local product is the best-tasting and safest food around. Without such a cultural shift there seems little prospect of a lasting revival in the fortunes of the family farm, no matter how much more cash can be wrested from long-suffering taxpayers.

It all used to be so different. In the good old days the beef farmer would truck a couple of fat steers down to the local market for auction, secure in the knowledge that a handful of prominent local butchers were likely to dominate the bidding. Should there be a couple of unknown buyers from up-country to enliven proceedings, so much the better.

But the chances were that those steers would end up on a hook at the back of the local meat shop. The butcher would know his customers and suppliers. And there was every likelihood that he would be back at the market buying similar beasts the next week.

MARC HILL


IT'S NOT JUST FARMING THIS AFFECTS YOU TOO
BEEF IMPOR BUY BRITISH
BE A BRITISH BEEF EATER
Buy BRITISH FOOD

Jean Clark, a Devon farmer, protesting with others this week outside a frozen-food plant at Lee Mill

Today the world is very different. The family butchers are fast disappearing from our high streets. The new buyers bidding at the auction ringside are players in a global game — buying for the multinational food companies with worldwide brands, switching their buying power from country to country as easily as currency speculators.

Arable and dairy farmers have begun to wake up to the new market realities. Many are busy "rationalising" their holdings — swallowing up their smaller neighbours to create factory-scale enterprises. The 5,000-acre arable farm and the "feedlot" dairy unit with hundreds of cows under one roof are no longer rarities in the new competitive landscape of rural Britain.

It is these larger farmers, together with the growing new breed of contract-farming companies, who are the chief beneficiaries of the billions spent by the public each year to support British agriculture.

Struggling beef producers demand more money from taxpayers to offset the damaging effects of a strong currency. But no one proposes clawing back some of the hundreds of millions overpaid to cereal growers when a weak pound worked to their advantage.

It is easier to blame the troubles on a supposed town-country divide and the indifference of an urban-minded government. Yet it is hard to see how a government can be accused of urban bias when it taxes its citizens by £2.5 billion a year — and inflates their living costs by twice as much again — in order to support farmers.

This is not to say that British beef producers are wrong to demand a level playing field when competing with other EU member states. And there is surely a case for compensating them for losses resulting from the export ban. But they cannot expect to be bailed out by taxpayers every time their markets are swamped in a global trading tide. If we insist on viewing farm products as mere commodities to be bartered on world markets, then no amount of public hand-outs will keep the "For Sale" signs from farm entrances up and down the land.

The more imaginative response might be for Britain's farmers to embark on a sustained campaign to change consumer habits. They can set out to show that locally produced foods are tastier and probably better for you than those that are shipped half way round the globe. For good measure, they might even try demonstrating that family farms can do a better job of keeping the wild flowers in the meadows and songbirds in the hedgerows.

It cannot be coincidence that the one group of producers which is not complaining about falling returns or demanding a massive rescue package from the taxpayer are Britain's organic farmers. For them these are the boom times.

The message for those hard-pressed livestock farmers would seem to be clear.

GRAHAM HARVEY

● *The writer is a farming journalist and author of* The Killing of the Countryside *(Jonathan Cape, £16.99).*

RICHARD WATT

Many pastoral scenes could vanish with the decline in agricultural employment and the exodus of young people from villages to seek work in towns. An NFU survey reveals that about 20,000 farms could be abandoned within a generation

Dilemma down on the farms

An increasing number of farmers are being forced to make money in other ways. **John Young** reports

At Saddleworth Moor, at the northern end of the Peak National Park, the industrial lowlands of Lancashire give way to the high, wide sweep of the Pennines. Graham Heathcote has farmed here for the past 43 years. However, while the 70-acre holding which he bought in 1970 supports a herd of about 60 beef cattle, including 30 suckler cows, it has long since ceased to support him and his family. "No one in these parts can live off beef farming alone," he says. "Prices have dropped horrendously. Five years ago I paid £945 at Carlisle market for a Limousin cow in calf. A year later I paid £700. Last week cows were going for £330, but I don't buy cattle any more. I breed my own and sell what I don't want for what I can get."

Like almost all his neighbours, Mr Heathcote needs to supplement his income with a second job, in his case as a plant hire contractor. "I have three tractors which I hire to people like the local council and the water authority. It's the only way to keep going."

Now 70, he is resigned to the fact that none of his six children, three boys and three girls, will follow him into the business. "I wouldn't encourage anyone to go into farming these days."

He anticipates no difficulty in selling the property when he retires — the house is listed and only 25 minutes from the centre of Manchester where there are plenty of potential buyers in search of attractive rural retreats. But the farm itself, of which there are records dating back to 1712, will almost certainly be broken up, and another fragment of England's rural patchwork will disappear.

A survey by the National Farmers Union shows that low incomes, long working hours and the lack of long-term stability, rather than isolation and lack of amenities, are what deter young people from hill farming. That was broadly confirmed by the answers to questionnaires sent out by Rural Stress Information Network, a charity set up about a year ago to examine the incidence of stress and suicide within the farming community.

PAUL COUSANS

Graham Heathcote's farm cannot support his family. "Hiring out my tractors is the only way I can keep going"

Nick Reid, the charity's director, pointed out that many hill farmers enjoyed an isolated way of life but were dismayed by the decline of village communities, particularly in Cumbria and Wales, losing not just schools and shops but also friends and neighbours. It would be simplistic to equate stress with financial uncertainty, though there were enormous difficulties in planning ahead.

The NFU has forecast that farm incomes will be shown to have fallen by 45 per cent this year compared with 1996. Market prices were lower for nearly all products, notably grain, beef, milk and potatoes, while fruit and vegetable yields were damaged by late spring frosts and the dry summer. But the main culprit, farmers say, has been the strong pound, which has damaged exports and made imports cheaper.

While beef exports have been banned anyway because of fears about BSE, cheap imports from Ireland in particular have further depressed the market. Although Britain could claim compensation under the EU price support mechanism, the Government has declined to do so because the sums would have to be matched by the Exchequer.

Nearly half the farmers interviewed in the survey said their children would not be taking over when they retired. Since nearly two-thirds of the respondents were over 50, in theory some 20,000 hill farms could be abandoned within a generation.

That does not necessarily mean that all the land would cease to be grazed or cultivated. Some of it would probably find purchasers, but some of the more remote holdings are undoubtedly at risk. Since these tend to be in the most scenic uplands — national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of scientific interest — the environmental consequences could be highly damaging.

Townspeople visiting places such as the Yorkshire Dales, for example, often seem only dimly aware of the links between agriculture and landscape, even though it is patently obvious that nature's work has been enhanced by generations of traditional farming and the creation of admired features such as drystone walls, hedges, small enclosed fields and the farm buildings themselves.

If the sheep and cattle disappeared from the hillsides, grass and moorland would quickly revert to scrub, with disastrous results, not only scenically but also for wildlife and especially birds such as grouse, plover and hen harrier. Park authorities and landowners like the National Trust would be powerless to prevent wholesale degradation.

Hill farming has for the most part escaped modern "improvements" and thus provides an essential antidote to the destructive so-called factory farming, heavily dependent on chemicals and expensive machinery, which has changed the face of much of lowland Britain. It is also comparatively labour intensive and consequently of greater importance to local economies than other kinds of farming.

Farming in what EU jargon defines as "less favoured" areas, effectively another name for uplands, produces about two-thirds of the nation's suckler cows and breeding ewes, and more than a quarter of its milk, and employs about 170,000 people directly and many thousands more in associated industries.

A study by the University of Aberystwyth suggests that for every ten people engaged directly in beef and lamb production, another 25 are employed in the sale and processing of animals and foodstuffs.

In the past 50 years the decline in agricultural employment and the exodus of young people from villages to seek work in towns and cities has been an important factor in the closure of schools, shops and public services. At the same time, their parents have increasingly turned to supplementing their incomes by providing bed and breakfast to tourists.

Today's is a harsh climate for arguing the case for subsidies to farming as much as to industry or the arts. But there do seem to be sound reasons, both economic and environmental, for thinking that the hill farmer deserves better.

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PETER NICHOLLS

Continued from page 1

was the same age as some of them. They responded by singing their hearts out.

Despite the short notice and the overbearing media attention, the 24 Westminster choristers performed impeccably at the funeral, unfazed by the size of the event or by performing alongside Elton John.

In November, the Westminster choristers were back on television, singing at the royal golden wedding anniversary service. That they again met everybody's expectations was par for the course, because they are highly trained choristers who sing for a minimum of three hours a day.

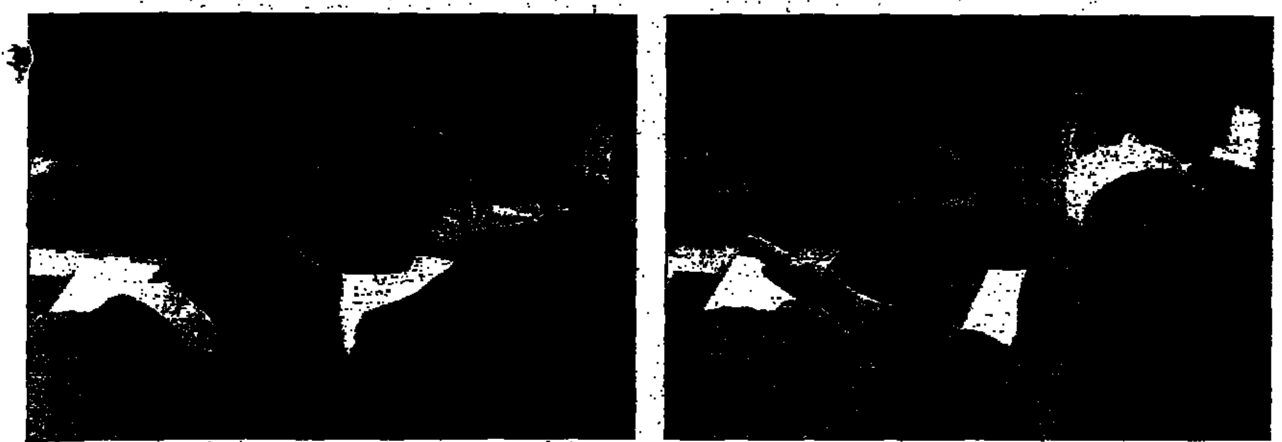
Roger Overend, the headmaster at the abbey school, which is the one choir school in the country educating choristers only, suggests that they enjoy the trappings of fame. "They can even be rather prima donna-ish," he says. "As in, 'Oh no, not another CD to record, we've only just done one'."

At a rehearsal I attended this week, Dr Neary asked his boys why they never sang out of tune: "Because we're a good choir. Because we're the best. Because we're cool," came the boyish replies. "No," he retorted. "It's because I won't allow you to."

As a former chorister under Dr. Neary's charge, [illegible] for his statement. He was a hard task-master when, in the early 1970s, I was in the choir at Winchester Cathedral, where he was choirmaster. "Some may think he drives the boys too hard," one parent says of the current bunch at Westminster, "but the choir's ability speaks for itself and I have never come across a chorister who didn't enjoy it." Another said: "It is incredible that he gets those little boys to sound like that."

Westminster holds voice trials for newcomers three times a year. Out of 40 or 50 entrants, about seven are offered a place and put on probation for a year to see if they can stand the pace. Some new boys are so small that they have to stand on boxes to see over the choir stalls.

For the little chorister (top and above) singing means early mornings and standing on a box



Behind those cherubic faces and angelic voices of choristers lies the usual rough-and-tumble schoolboy mischievousness

The advantage of joining the choir is to get one of the best musical educations, with a virtual guarantee of a music scholarship to the next school. All the boys at Westminster play two instruments: there's a piano in every classroom, and even one in the dormitories.

The school fees of £3,000 a year are hugely subsidised, with an average of only seven pupils to a class.

The disadvantage is the commitment: three hours of singing a day, starting with a rehearsal at 8.25 every morning — *after* half an hour's instrumental music practice. Boarding is the only option with such a regime.

Most choirboys have to stay at school until Christmas Day, Easter Day and for an extra two weeks in summer during the holidays. At Winchester, after the rest of the boys had gone home, the treat was that we were allowed to buy sweets — I no longer had to smuggle in pear-drops or sherbert fountains in my violin case.

Beneath their cassocks, choirboys still have those routine essentials in their pockets: conkers, string, rubber bands, a sticky sweet and pencil rubber. During "boring" sermons, we would play dot-cricket under our surplices. Even when singing angelically in front of the bishop, we could be kicking each other under the choir stalls. When we walked through the Close at Winchester in a crocodile, and American tourists gawped and gushed about how sweet we loooked were, we would scuff our shoes and sometimes thumb our noses at them.

'Sweet? Under the stalls we kicked each other'

At Westminster, James Wilkinson, who became the BBC's science correspondent and is now secretary of the Westminster Abbey Old Choristers' Association, remembers singing for the Coronation. "It provided ample opportunity for capitalising on tourists who flocked to see the abbey," he says. "The queues through Dean's Yard passed below our classroom window and we would lower a basket on a string with the request 'sweets please'. It always came back full — until we were caught and the basket confiscated."

Mr Wilkinson also recalls how Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein stayed at the choir school before the service and how, after the full-dress rehearsal, returned for supper with the choir. "He insisted on remaining in his Garter robes and, as he pushed his fork into a tomato, it burst, showering him with pips. Everyone tensed, waiting for his reaction, but he laughed and said: 'See that, boys? Burst like a bomb; just like a bomb'."

For all the grand occasions in the abbey where the choristers perform with due decorum, there are many more when they muck about with skateboards, footballs (the match against the choir at St Paul's is as bitter as any London derby) and roller-skates. But the discipline instilled by life at a choir school is never forgotten.

Last Saturday, Dr Neary's boys were allowed to sleep in after singing Handel's *Messiah* to a sell-out audience at the abbey the night before. But on Sunday, they were back with Matins, Eucharist and Evensong, as well as all the associated rehearsals.

On Monday evening, they will sing a Christmas concert at the Barbican, with the English Chamber Orchestra. And they will continue singing until December 28 before going on holiday.

In the longer term, they have to churn out their CDs — their latest, just out, is a selection of favourite hymns.

Their professionalism enabled Westminster Abbey's Rev Dr William Beaver to predict with confidence that the choristers would turn in a performance to remember at the Princess's funeral: "You wait," he said, "you'll never have heard anything like it in your life. Their sound is so pure and sweet, it's like bringing God nearer to the people."

People shoudl remember that beneath those ruffs, surplices and cassocks, the choristers are ordinary fun-loving boys — *even if they are the best* in the music business.

The day's three hours of singing starts with rehearsals at 8.25am, with Martin Neary, the Master of the Choristers

'Fierce matrons, icy bathrooms'

The pressures of choir school can have a life-long effect, says **Philip Delves Broughton**

It takes a special kind of fathead to imagine that the life of a choirboy is one long Trollopian idyll. For all those who boast of how the discipline and training prepared them wonderfully for life, there are many whose lives are forever coloured by the pressure to succeed and the vertiginous fear of failure impressed on them so young.

Michael Mates, the Conservative MP for East Hampshire, attended Salisbury Cathedral School from 1943-47. If you ever wondered where all the chest-puffing swagger he displayed as a Tory minister came from, here lies the answer.

Mr Mates is from the nostalgist school of choirboys. He has said of his time at Salisbury: "What has remained with me is the beauty of the music, the solemnity of the Book of Common Prayer and the majesty of the King James's Bible. Add to this one of the most beautiful cathedral closes in Britain, with the soaring grandeur of the cathedral, and it is easy to understand it is an idyll which will stay with me to my grave."

The giveaway phrase there is "the Book of Common Prayer". While his fellow choirboys were tying knots in each other's surplices, young Mates was turning to blancmange over Cranmer. Such boyhood behaviour leads inevitably in later life to support for family values as a vote-winning political platform.

More common is the experience of Jon Snow, the broadcaster and presenter of Channel 4 news. Like many choirboys, Snow came from a clergy household. His father was the Bishop of Whitby. Snow was a chorister at Winchester Cathedral from 1956-61. Though he loved it at the time, it is not an experience he would necessarily want for his own children.

As well as soaring top notes and Gothic arches, the chorister's life was also about small boys wetting their cassocks in fear during Matins, about icy bathrooms, fierce matrons, and, most importantly, being away from your family. "But it was great fun staying on for Christmas, St Stephen's day and Easter," Snow says. "There were turkey feasts in the deanery and egg-and-spoon races with the clergy." When the other boys were off for Christmas, the 16 choristers left behind for the "stay-on" were pampered by those in the cathedral and town.

Choir days: Jon Snow (left) and Sir David Willcocks

The surrogate life provided by the cathedral and its characters, however, did little for his relations with his own family. Snow has written: "From this familial wreckage emerged a confident, over-independent child — well primed to grow up a selfish, ego-massaged operative. It took me years to recover. Literally, I loved that building and its life more than my own family."

Advocates of choir-school life like to emphasise the tremendous "discipline" instilled in choristers. Sir David Willcocks, the former organist at King's College Cambridge, sang as a chorister at Westminster Abbey from 1929-34. His choirmaster was Sir Ernest Bullock, whom he later succeeded as director of the Royal College of Music. "Being a chorister was a wonderfully busy life," he says. "I learned about discipline and concentration. Not many small boys have to concentrate as hard as choristers."

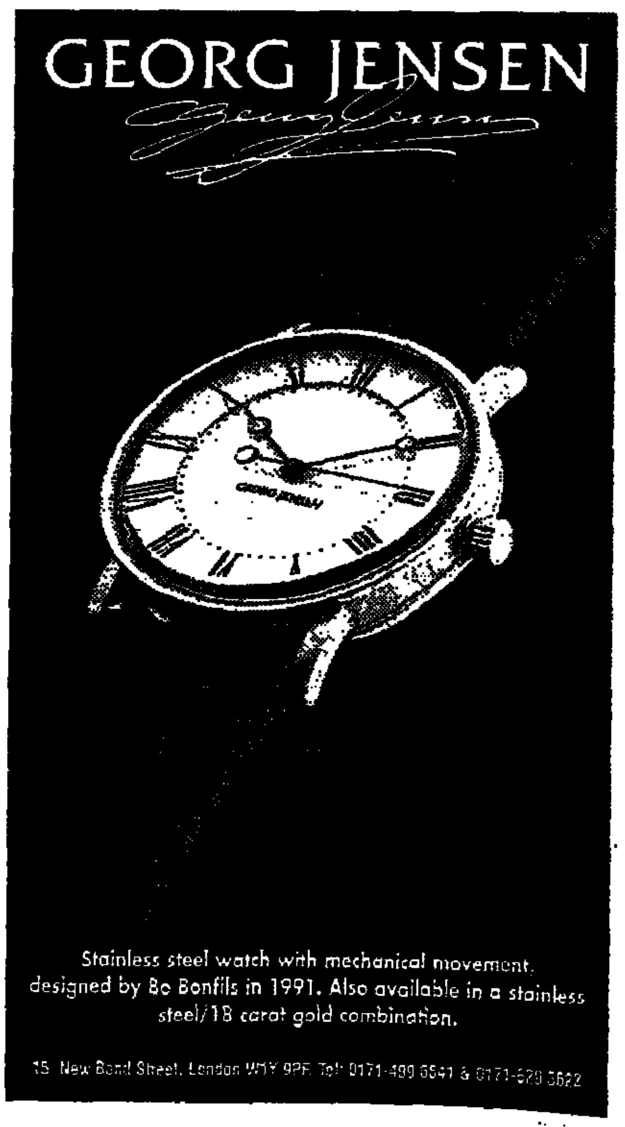
Sir David, whose arrangements of Christmas carols will be heard thousands of times this month, adds: "From the moment I arrived at the abbey, it never occurred to me that I wanted anything other than music. I wanted to play the organ like other boys wanted to be engine drivers."

Other men who have emerged from choir schools to prominence include Baroness Thatcher's former adviser Sir Charles Powell (Canterbury Choir School), the wine writer Oz Clarke (also Canterbury), the Tory MP for Salisbury and bishop's son Robert Key (Salisbury Choir School), and the Liberal Democrat MP for Bermondsey Simon Hughes (sang at Llandaff Cathedral).

David Hemmings, the actor best known for his role in the Sixties film *Blow Up*, sang as a boy at the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace. He had been encouraged to sing by his mother and father, who was a dance-band pianist. "Being a choir boy was horrid. I was always the one who found ink spots down the back of my shirt."

Hemmings made his mark as an operatic boy soprano, and well remembers the moment his voice broke. For the chorister, this can be a moment of either intense sadness at the fading of the limelight or rejoicing at the liberation from the dreaded discipline of the choir.

"I was on stage at the Champs-Elysées Theatre in Paris," Hemmings says, "in the middle of a long solo aria. It was an abrupt end of innocence. But when you are that young, you are not so frightened. You don't realise until later in life how much was riding on what you did."



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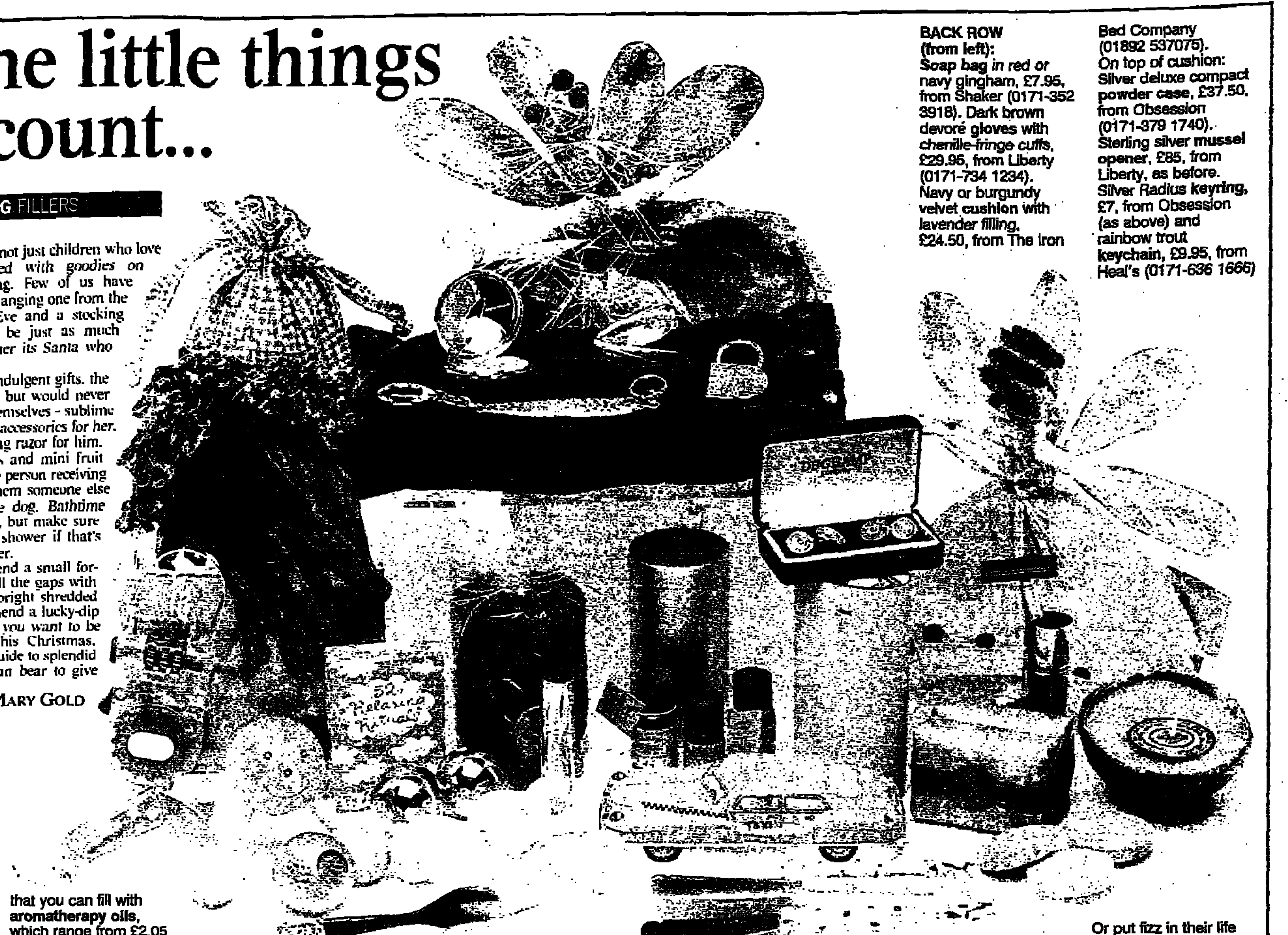
Chocolates, tiny cheeses and mini fruit cakes go down well – if the person receiving the stocking doesn't eat them someone else will, even if it's only the dog. Bathtime treats are also a good bet, but make sure they will hang up in the shower if that's what your loved ones prefer.

If you don't want to spend a small fortune, go for bulky gifts, fill the gaps with oranges and nuts or use bright shredded tissue as stuffing – it will lend a lucky-dip feel to the occasion. So if you want to be all present and correct this Christmas, here's our indispensable guide to splendid stocking fillers – if you can bear to give them away...

MARY GOLD



MIDDLE ROW (from left): *The Lok from* EFX (01789 450005) is perfect for the traveller who needs to **lock** up valuables, £9.95 mail order (add £1.50 for p&p). If you know someone who loves to *sing in the* bath, buy them the relaxing **bathtime CD**, £9.95 from Liberty (0171-734 1234). For the stressed out, buy relaxing **rituals cards**, £4.99 from Heal's *(0171-636 1666)*, silver **stress balls**, £8.75, for a sensual massage, from EFX (as before). Louise Bradley's black beeswax **candle**, £15 (0171-589 1442) or *a **gold tin** box*, £2.95, that you can fill with **aromatherapy oils**, which range from £2.05 to £10.45, from The Body Shop (01903 731500). Or *smarten him up with* some Duchamp **cufflinks**, £39.50, from Liberty (as before). For those who love writing poems or notes, give a rolled-up leather **notebook**, £100, from Hermès (0171-499 8856). The Dynasty boxed *jasmine* **soaps** from the General Trading Company are beautifully wrapped and decorated with original Chinese coins, £24 for six (0171-730 0411). Silver **mini-razor**, £12.50, *small* enough to fit in his suit pocket or the post if *you need a last-minute* gift, from Obsession (0171-379 1740). Coconut **candle**, £4.50, from The Iron Bed Company (as above) comes in a real shell and is filled with exotic-scented wax.

BACK ROW (from left): *Soap* **bag** *in red or* navy gingham, £7.95, from Shaker (0171-352 3918). Dark brown devoré **gloves** with *chenille-fringe cuffs*, £29.95, from Liberty (0171-734 1234). Navy or burgundy velvet **cushion** with *lavender filling*, £24.50, from The Iron Bed Company (01892 537075). On top of cushion: Silver deluxe **compact powder case**, £37.50, from Obsession (0171-379 1740). Sterling silver **mussel opener**, £85, from Liberty, as before. Silver Radius **keyring**, £7, from Obsession (as above) and rainbow trout **keychain**, £9.95, from Heal's *(0171-636 1666)*

FRONT ROW (from left): A handy gizmo is *the Firefly **keyring/mini*** **pocket knife**, £12.50 from EFX (as before). The wooden Happy **Massager**, £9.95, will take the stress out of everyday life, from Bath & Body Works *(0171-559 0955)*. Let him wake up in the morning with the *thought of golf, with* the **golf ball clock**, £25, from Debenhams (0171-408 4444). Spoil the gastronome with Thomas Goode's Abbeyhorn **spoon** with silver top, £30 *(0171-499 2823)*, Louise Bradley's shell **napkin rings**, £3.80 each (as before) *or a set of four* coloured **knives**, £59.95, from Liberty (as before). If they wear glasses, give them the New York taxi **specs case**, £4.99, from Dollond & Aitchison *(0121-706 6133)*.

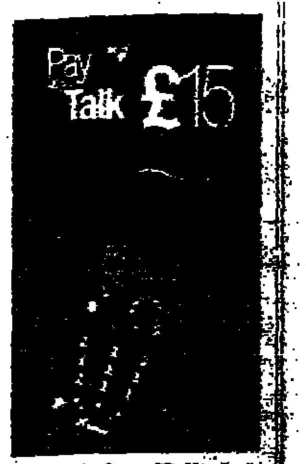
Or put fizz in their life with Fizzing **Bath Tablets**, £3.99, from Asda (0500 100055)

Paper Christmas fairy decorations, from £20, Nickie Carlyons (01736 731034)

Photograph by **Des Jenson**

Research and styling by **Jennifer Rüggeberg**

GADGETS



Vodafone Telital

IF THE mobile phone urge strikes you only *occasionally*, take a look at Vodafone's Telital PV129. Aimed at the youth market, but set to be a boon for those with *credit ratings* down the pan, the 5in phone comes in four colours: blue, green, grey and black.

There are no monthly bills. Instead, to "activate" the phone, purchase £15 scratch cards from outlets such as Woolworth and key in touch-tone details to a freephone number. The first £7.50 covers 30 days' line rental, the other half goes towards call charges (40p per minute at all times or 60p peak and 5p off-peak and weekends).

Chatterboxes can buy £15 top-up cards, while unused call time carries over for up to 90 days. To retain the same telephone number, use the phone once within 180 days.

The Siemens S10 phone is the size of a Mars Bar with the dubious gimmick of a colour LCD display. It works well enough, but the idea seems as sharp as a photographer on radio.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Vodafone Telital Pay-As-You-Talk service (0836 1191 for stockists) and Siemens S10, £79-£99 (0345 400700 for stockists).*

Wistful relics from a romantic era

Jean Marsh, star and writer of *Upstairs Downstairs*, explains to **Michael Cable** about her Below Stairs passion

The front entrance to Below Stairs in Hungerford

There is an element of pure serendipity in Jean Marsh's discovery of the Hungerford antiques shop Below Stairs. The name was inspired by the hugely successful period TV series *Upstairs Downstairs*, which she devised and wrote with fellow actress Eileen Atkins, and starred in as the housemaid Rose.

Recalling how he gave up a steady job with WH Smith to open the business 25 years ago, proprietor Stewart Hofgartner explains: "I started off specialising in items relating to people who worked below stairs in big houses, mainly craftsmen's tools and kitchen implements. I was a big fan of *Upstairs Downstairs*, which was showing at the time, and that's what gave me the idea for the name."

When he mentioned this to Ms Marsh, she clapped her hands in delight, revealing: "That's doubly coincidental, because at one time the series was actually going to be called *Below Stairs*."

It was only recently, after buying a country cottage outside Hungerford, that the 63-year-old actress, scriptwriter and now best-selling romantic novelist discovered the shop and fell in love at first browse.

"I didn't even notice the name when I walked in but when I looked around at all the wonderful stuff he's got, I couldn't believe it — it was like being back on the set of *Upstairs Downstairs*," she says. She was also rather bowled over by Mr Hofgartner's quietly helpful manner.

"I came in looking for some brass keeps for a couple of beautiful antique bolts that I had acquired, and although he didn't have exactly what I was after, he offered to make some up for me," she says.

"He was so nice about it, and it was clear he was somebody who loved what he was doing and wasn't just in it for the money."

Despite or, maybe, because of this, the business has flourished and gradually expanded. There are separate sections for antique lighting, interior fittings and ironmongery, kitchen antiques and taxidermy.

The room devoted to assorted collectables is a treasure house of curiosities ranging from a selection of Victorian policemen's truncheons and a gamekeeper's swingle stick, to mahogany and brass fishing reels, and a couple of Shell petrol pump globes dating from the 1940s.

Out in the yard, uprooted gas streetlamps lean against the wall alongside VR and GR post boxes — popular, apparently, with town councils wanting to present their twin towns in Europe with something quintessentially British.

Ms Marsh climbs gingerly aboard an original baker's horse-drawn delivery cart, on offer for £1,600, and then pauses to admire a haulage wagon priced at £1,900. "I've got the space and if I had the money I might go for it," she muses, imagining it placed somewhere in the 16 acres of garden and meadow surrounding her home.

The converted labourer's cottage she lives in is situated at the end of a lane. She plans to have chicken and ducks, to go for long walks and generally to enjoy a simple rural idyll while writing her books and taking on occasional acting work.

Although she was once married — to actor Jon Pertwee — and has been involved in long relationships with another actor, Kenneth Haigh, and the film director Michael Lindsay-Hogg, she has lived alone for the past 17 years.

"I've settled for it now, although I never thought I would live on my own and I do miss 'him', whoever 'he' is," she admits. "It would be lovely to have someone with whom to discuss the decoration of the cottage and to help choose the converted gas lamps I am looking for."

As you might expect of someone who devised and wrote *Upstairs Downstairs* and *The House of Eliott*, and who spanned the period 1880-1990 in last book *Fiennders Keepers* — which made the shortlist for Romantic Novel of the Year and is now out in paperback — she has a nostalgic streak.

"I do write a lot about olden times," she agrees, drooling over a selection of white china jelly moulds. "But I wouldn't want to have lived then because, with my Cockney background, I would never have been anything more than a maid. I would have worked very hard and would have lived in a cold attic.

"At the same time, England was simply a much more beautiful place. There was less traffic, fewer roads and more hedges. It's for that sort of thing that I am nostalgic."

● *Below Stairs of Hungerford, 103 High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire (01488 682317). Open seven days a week, 10am-6pm.*

my favourite shop

CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Jean Marsh with Stewart Hofgartner. "I'm glad I didn't live in Victorian times — I wouldn't have been *more than a maid*"

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Out of the office, into the limelight

It's party season, and all over the country women are wailing "I can't wear *that* — it's too small/old-fashioned/tight" as they scramble around, trying to find a suitable dress to wear to this year's round of Christmas bashes.

Office parties are particularly difficult to dress for — the blissfully bare little number you might flaunt in a club is not always the right one in which to confront your boss — or your young male assistant. The magnificent slit skirt might be ideal for dirty dancing, but will a flash of thigh be suitable for dinner?

Glamour is key. "Women want to look grand, but sexy," says designer Ben de Lisi. "Our best-seller this year is a crêpe spaghetti-strap dress which has a diaphanous georgette scarf that wafts behind like a train. It is simple, but women feel fabulous in it."

High streets have taken their cue from the elegant autumn/winter collections. Shops are full of embroidered slips, lace gowns, tasselled dresses and beaded creations that look elegant and sumptous without being too expensive.

Paul Sexton, co-owner of Koh Samui in London's Covent Garden, says that glamorous Thirties styles are particularly popular. Kylie Minogue opted for a Rui Danan corset-tight lace dress; Zoe Ball for a delicately beaded Elspeth Gibson slip with scalloped hemline; Sophie Ward for a silk and chiffon Clements Ribeiro dress with sequinned hem.

Although every woman dreams of slipping on an original designer creation, most of us turn to the high street in times of party-dress distress.

Oasis has a range of beaded minis from £60; Coppernob shimmering stretch slips for less than £50; Monsoon beaded eveningwear for about £100.

If the bank balance won't support even high-street prices, charity shops are an invaluable source of glamorous items discarded by other women in similar states of pre-Christmas wardrobe panic.

The most popular looks are simple and strappy; many are cut on the bias, letting the fabric flow gracefully, or are gently tailored to fit womanly curves.

There are styles to show off every woman's assets: halternecks to emphasise a long, lean back; plunging necklines to show off a fine cleavage; cropped tops to reveal a flat stomach.

Although there is a range of sparkly jewellery to match, most eveningwear looks best with simple pieces that complement, rather than distract. Add a pair of delicate strappy shoes, a matching bag and a wrap, and there will be only one other essential to add: the determination to have a jolly good time.

LISA GRAINGER

ABOVE: Black silk diamanté-studded dress, £639, Clements Ribeiro, Koh Samui, 65 Monmouth Street, WC2 (0171-240 4280). Black mini-drop bead choker, £4.99, Accessorize (0171-313 3000)

RIGHT: Multicoloured beaded gold-thread long dress, £250, Monsoon, Kensington High Street, W8, and selected branches (0171-313 3000). Brown diamanté clip-on earrings, £25, Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-352 3045)

ABOVE: Plum silk diamanté-studded cowl-neck top, £325; matching skirt, £325, both to order, Katharine Hamnett, 20 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1002). Silver hoop earrings, £2.99, Accessorize, as before

Photographs by **Richard Burns.** Hair and make-up by **Sally Kvalheim** for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7744). Styling by **Amandip Uppal.** Photographed at **Embargo,** 533b King's Road, SW10 (0171-351 5038)

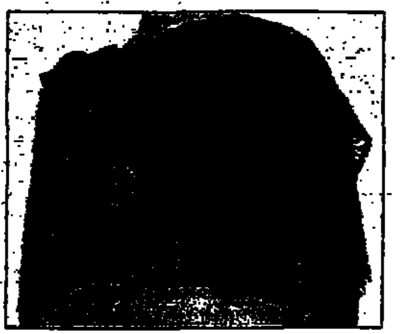
ABOVE LEFT: Black satin puff-sleeve fitted jacket, £295, Fly Now By Chamnan, Pellicano, 63 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-629 2205). Black double-layer silver-beaded chiffon skirt, £28, Warehouse, selected branches (0171-278 3491). Fine choker, £178, Butler & Wilson, as before

ABOVE: Pink cowl-neck gold thread dress, £155, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-487 4484). Pink diamanté choker, £78, Butler & Wilson, as before. Plum suede ankle-tie shoes, £262, Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 6008)

THREE OF A KIND

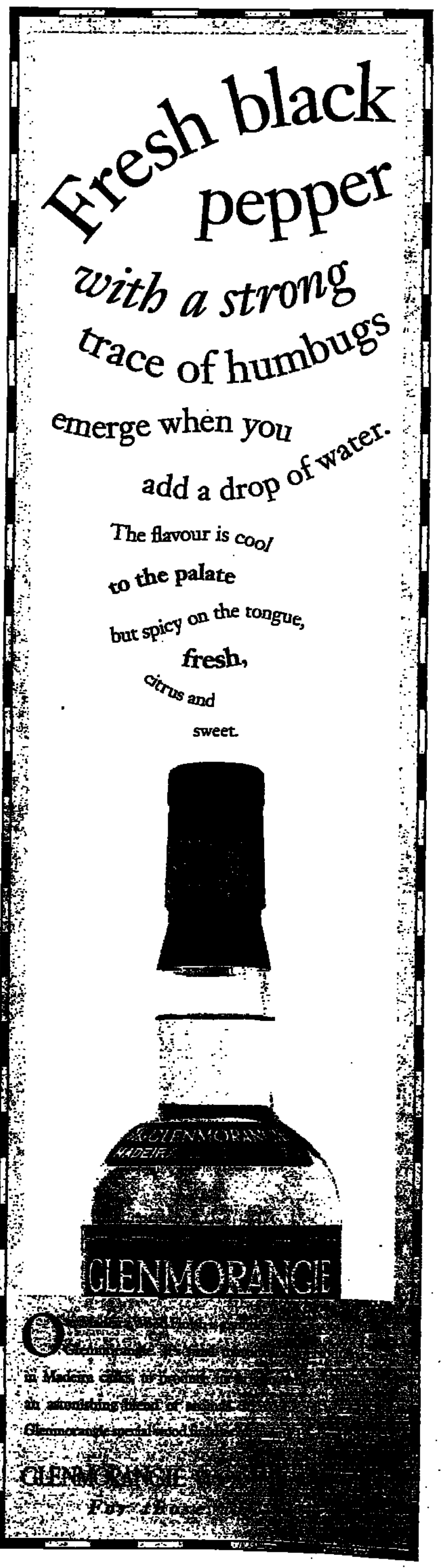
If you're baring all for the Christmas party, you'll need a wrap to cover up in the cold. Try these three

ABOVE: Pink flower-print silk wrap, £81, Elvis Jesus, Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, W1, and also Geese, 28 Deansgate, Manchester M3 (inquiries 0171-637 1450)



ABOVE: Gold organza double-layer wrap, £115, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)

LEFT: Devoré black velvet wrap with fringe, £55, Marks & Spencer, selected branches (0171-935 4422)



Oranges are not the only fruit for Christmas

Citrus plants of every species make excellent festive decorations, says **Barbara Abbs**

What can you give the gardener who has everything for Christmas? Think seriously about a citrus plant. At this time of year, you should be able to get a fruiting lemon from a specialist nursery, ideal for Christmas drinks, gin and tonics and hot toddies.

Orange trees in fruit, especially the small Calamondin, look as if they are already decorated. A medium-sized kumquat should give you enough tiny fruits to accompany a festive ham or the fruit can be left on the tree until spring to give you a taste sensation that you will never get from those on sale in supermarkets. When they are ripe, the peel becomes meltingly sweet and contrasts with the still tangy fruit.

Not only are citrus fruits good to eat, but because of their vibrant colours they make splendid additions to Christmas wreaths and table or mantelpiece decorations. They are particularly easy to fix because wire can go right through them. Satsumas are not suitable because the peel is so loosely attached to the fruit.

In a wreath, lemons, clementines and small oranges can be fixed to the frame after the background of evergreen leaves has been built up. For table decorations, the skin of the fruit can be scored into patterns with a lemon zester and then studded with cloves. Tie them with ribbons and pile them up among the holly.

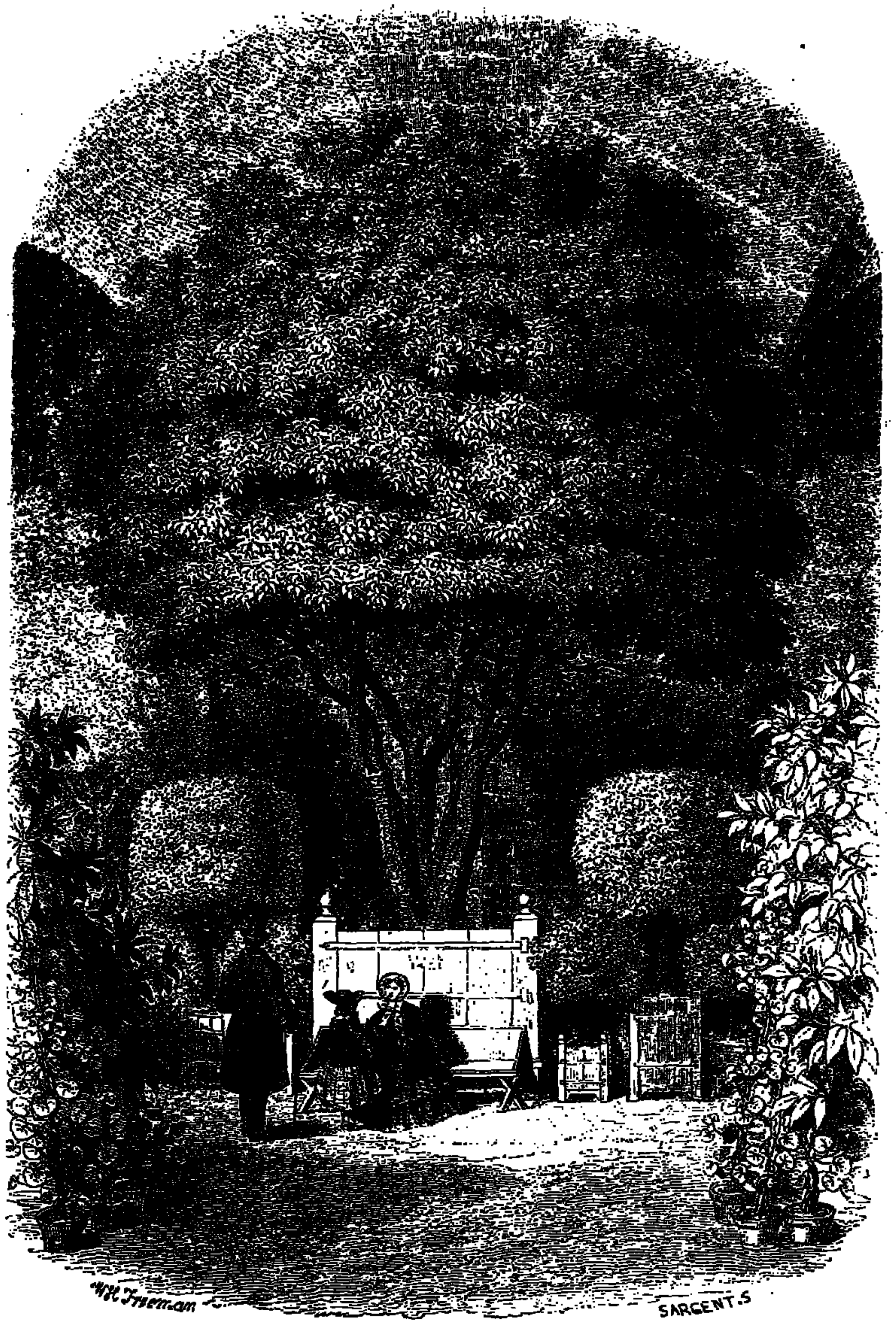
Oranges and lemons and all their relations are ideal container plants, as north Europeans have been proving since the 16th century when they were first grown in the grand orangeries built for them. Today, with lighter houses, conservatories, glass porches and glass doors, many of us can find room for one because they need only to be kept frost-free over the winter. In the summer they love to be in full sun out of doors. They have handsome, evergreen, aromatic leaves, deliciously scented flowers and attractive edible fruit, often all at the same time. What more can one want in a pot plant?

Colourful: the *Citrus sinensis*

Two of the easiest citrus to grow are the Four Seasons Lemon, *Citrus limon* 'Quatre Saisons', and the Calamondin orange, now called *x Citrofortunella microscarp*. The Four Seasons Lemon flowers and fruits all year round, as does 'Garey's Eureka' which is closely related but, according to some experts, not identical. The Calamondin has small, attractive orange fruit and is the only citrus which has an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. There is an extremely pretty variegated variety.

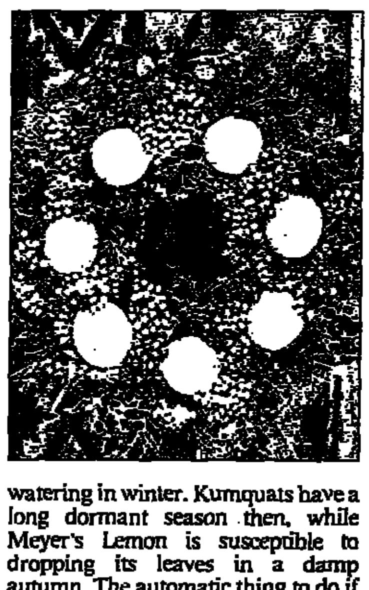
For something sweeter, choose oranges, mandarins or satsumas. The orange *C. sinensis* 'Washington' matures early and is almost seedless. The Moro Blood Orange, *C. sinensis* 'Moro Blood', is highly recommended for its flavour, as is another blood orange, 'Sanguinelli'. In recent years mandarins, satsumas and clementines have all but replaced the tangerines which used only to arrive in the shops for Christmas. As soon as I smell the true tangerine-scented fruit of the willow leaf mandarin, I am a child again, tipping out the contents of my Christmas stocking. That distinctive scent, not shared by the newer hybrids, is magical.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY



Oranges and lemons are ideal container plants. Below, lemons brighten a wreath

For an unheated greenhouse, consider the kumquats which can withstand temperatures of minus-five degrees for short periods. These small tart fruits are very decorative. Kumquats, *Fortunella margarita*, are almost the hardiest citrus; only *Poncirus trifoliata*, the deciduous bitter orange, which will grow outdoors here, is hardier. However, they do need watching. Both kumquats and Meyer's Lemon, *Citrus x meyeri* 'Meyer', which is frequently recommended, need particular care with watering in winter. Kumquats have a long dormant season then, while Meyer's Lemon is susceptible to dropping its leaves in a damp autumn. The automatic thing to do if an evergreen drops its leaves or appears not to be growing at all, is to water it heavily. Resist! More citrus plants are killed by becoming waterlogged than anything else.



The compost should be allowed to go dry while not drying out. Test by pressing your thumb two or three inches down into it. If it feels damp, do not water. In winter, the pot may only need to be watered about once every four to six weeks.

Most citrus benefit from standing outside during the summer between the last and first frosts, but do this by stages. The leaves may scorch if the plants are put out suddenly into bright sunshine. Acclimatise them by moving them first into the shade and then gradually into full sun. In the winter the plants need as much light as possible.

When it is too dark, even if the air is warm, the plant will drop its leaves but this is not necessarily fatal. If it is kept in the house on a windowsill, or in front of glass doors, turn it regularly and keep away from direct heat sources like radiators.

CITRUS FACT FILE

- Reader offer: the Citrus Centre in West Sussex (see address below) is offering readers of *The Times* a free bottle of special citrus fertiliser, value £4, with every order over £20. Citrus trees bought as gifts for Christmas and ordered immediately should arrive before December 25, weather permitting. Prices start from £20 for bushes and £30 for standards. Post & packing is extra and offer finishes January 31 (01798 872786 or fax 01798 874880 for full details).

- Nurseries: the Citrus Centre, Marehill Nursery, West Mare Lane, Marehill, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2EA (01798 872786 and fax 01798 874880). Open Wednesday to Sunday, 9.30am-5.30pm and Bank Holidays. Global Orange Groves, PO Box 644, Poole, Dorset BH17 9YB (01202 691699). Read's Nursery, Hales Hall, Loddon, Norfolk NR14 6QW (01508 548395 and fax 01508 548040). No mail order from mid-December. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm and Sundays May to October, 2pm-5pm. Holders of the National Collection of citrus.

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **I moved a three-year-old flowering cherry in late October and, going by the book, watered it twice a day for a month. But then the weather turned frosty, so I stopped watering and covered the ground under it with polythene. Then the leaves started to go brown and fall. What went wrong? Should I have continued to water?** — M. Streeter, Whitton, Middlesex.

A Strictly speaking, you should not transplant deciduous trees until the leaves have fallen, though most tough trees will survive being transplanted just before the leaves drop. Evergreens, which continue to transpire all winter, are better moved with the rootball intact. But if they are moved with a bare root, generous watering is vital — once every one to two days, and less if the weather is damp and still. I suspect you have followed the instructions for evergreen trees, because your cherry was still in leaf. However, I am sure it will be fine. The leaves would have dropped quickly anyway.

Q **We want to line the formal 20-yard drive to our front door with a hornbeam hedge "on stilts". We envisage about 4ft of trunk topped by 4ft of hedge. What size trees do you recommend?** — J. Hawksley, Dilwyn, Herefordshire.

A Put your trees in at 6ft-7ft high. At that height, and with the branches removed to 4ft, you could get away with light individual stakes, rather than a heavy structure of tensioned wires to train them on. Wire frames are for perfectionists in a hurry, but you can make a stilted hedge without having to look at tall posts and wires for the first three or four years. A few long garden canes tied between the trees, to pull the side branches together, will do the trick.

Q **My old quince tree produces a lot of fruit but much of it is marked with brown blotches and is unusable. Could I prune it, and remove some blossom to reduce the crop?** — B. Metcalf, Cheltenham, Gloucesteshire.

A The problem could be quince leaf blight, which appears on fruit as well as foliage. Clean out the tree of any diseased wood, collect and burn the leaves, and spray with a copper fungicide at leaf-burst in spring. Major pruning will not clear the disease and is more likely to do harm than good. I would not remove blossom, as you never know which flowers are going to set good fruit.

● *Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

● *A compendium of Stephen Anderton's Garden Answers is available from bookshops, priced £11.99, or direct from* The Times *on 0990 134459 (quote ref FT696) for £10, while stocks last.*

- Pick flowers of *Iris lazica* and *unguicularis*. Put an open-ended cloche over clumps of Christmas roses (*Helleborus niger*) to produce clean flowers with no soil splashes for picking. Some plants of this species never flower for Christmas. If you want one which appears on time, buy one in flower.
- *Chaenomeles japonica* (flowering quince), which is trained hard against a wall, may have its summer shoots cut away, back to the rounder flower buds, which will open in spring.
- Apply tar oil wash to dormant fruit trees and bushes, to kill the eggs of next year's generation of aphids, sucker and scale insects. Use rubber gloves and goggles.
- Keep indoor azaleas (*Azalea indica* varieties) in a cool room, especially at night. Water by plunging the pot in a bowl of water, but let the rootball become fairly dry between waterings.
- Prune apples and pears (but not cherries and plums), and take any rotten, mummified fruits off the trees.

All present and correct with very little effort

Jane Owen picks the best of the festive offerings from gardening mail-order catalogues

THIS IS your last chance to buy Christmas presents for gardening enthusiasts from the comfort of your chair. Now is the time to remember long-forgotten uncles with wellington boot cufflinks or to give nieces and nephews a children's gardening set.

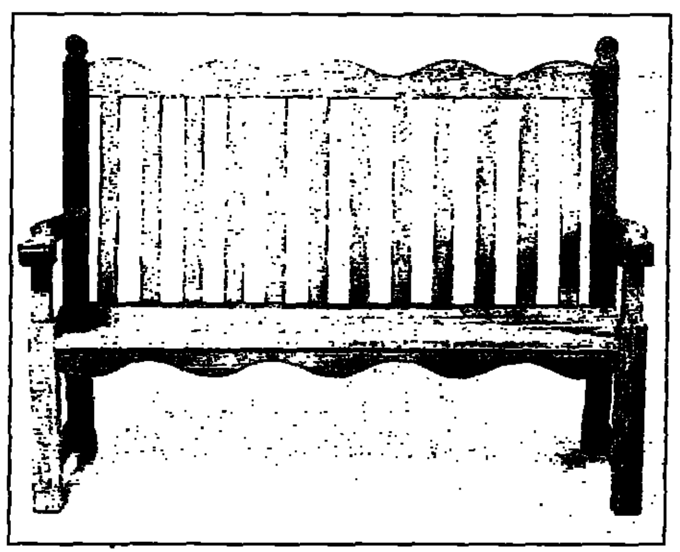
Most orders have to be in over the next few days to ensure Christmas delivery. Delivery and post & packaging charges vary — read the catalogues or ring the numbers listed for details. And, if you fail to make any of the mail-order deadlines, zip down to your nearest **B&Q** store and get a 3D reindeer (£50), complete with fitted lights, to brighten up your garden. Rudolf's 3D sleigh is a must at £40. The neighbours will love it.

Plantlife is the charity responsible for wild flower conservation in this country and its mail-order offerings this year include two Christmas cards — one of a Christmas rose and the other a wood engraving of a sprig of yew (both £3.50 for ten). Gift membership of Plantlife costs £19. For details send an A4, 50p stamped, addressed envelope to Plantlife, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD (0171-938 9111).

Lend the moral high ground to a friend by buying them membership of Europe's foremost organic gardening organisation, the **Henry Doubleday Research Association**, for £17 a year or £20 for the family. It gives free entrance to HDRA gardens: access to free gardening advice and the HDRA reference library and heaps more.

Ring 01203 303517 about membership or for a copy of the **Organic Gardening** catalogue, which has a wide range of disease-resistant flower and vegetable varieties, a video, *Introduction to Organic Gardening* (£12.95), and a pretty cream and green mug (£3.95) among other Christmas presents.

The Royal Horticultural Society for the first time has gift wrapped a membership pack with a card which the new member simply has to fill in to activate membership. At £37 the package buys free entrance to 250 talks and demonstrations, free entrance to 30 gardens, 12 free copies of *The Garden* and free gardening advice. Send a cheque for £37 to RHS membership department, PO Box 313, London SW1P 2PE with your name, address and daytime telephone number.



Gardeners can have a well-earned rest on this Wisley garden bench. It costs £650 from the Royal Horticultural Society. Amaryllis bulbs, left, cost £12.99 from Thompson & Morgan

For wellington boot cufflinks (£11.95), a daisy brooch (£24.75), a Wisley garden bench (£650), or a lily pot with three "stargazer" bulbs (£34.95) get the RHS catalogue or get in touch direct with RHS Enterprises, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB (01483 211320). Unfortunately, it cannot guarantee delivery before Christmas.

TINY GREEN fingers can be encouraged with **Ferndale Lodge's** two-third size gardening set (£6.95) of trowel, border fork, gloves, kneeling pad, calendar and activity guide with a pack of seeds. For adults, sturdy ankle-length galoshes are good value at £19.95. However, it might be optimistic of the comapny suggest that its green PVC ankle boots (£15.95) will "put fashion in your rainy day wardrobe". More information on 01803 612300.

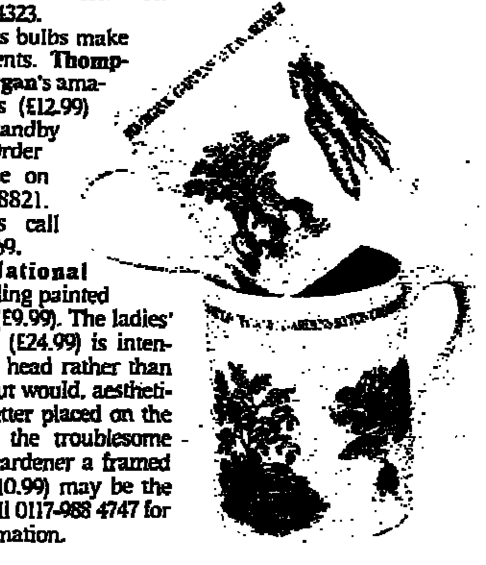
Johnsons sells gift-box sets made seasonal by a strip of red ribbon. The men's de-luxe gardening gift set (£27.99 or £25.99 on offer) consists of leather gloves, an apron and secateurs. More information on 0800 614323.

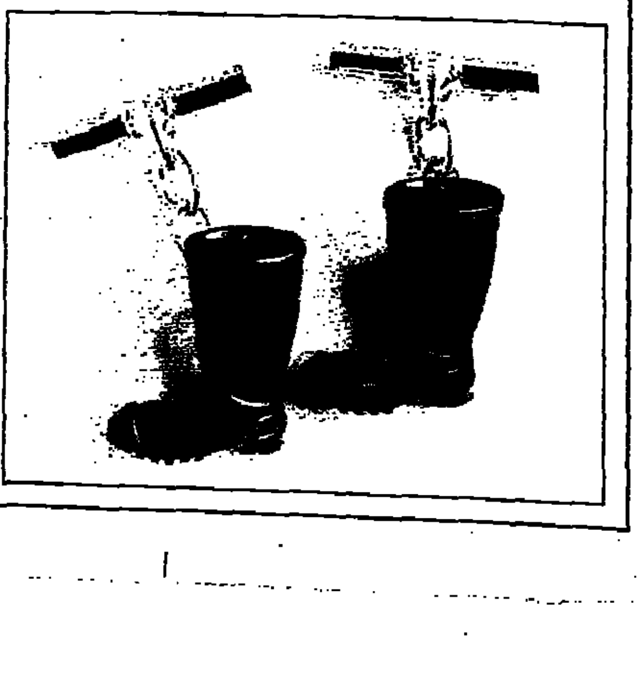
Amaryllis bulbs make good presents. **Thompson & Morgan's** amaryllis bulbs (£12.99) are good standby presents. Order a catalogue on 01473 688821. For orders call 01473 690869.

The National Trust is selling painted plant pots (£9.99). The ladies' wax cloche (£24.99) is intended for the head rather than the plant but would, aesthetically, be better placed on the latter. For the troublesome armchair gardener a framed sampler (£10.99) may be the answer. Call 0117-988 4747 for more information.

Johnsons's men's de-luxe gardening kit left, costs £27.99. Wellington boot cufflinks, below, £11.95 from the RHS catalogue. Mugs, below left, £3.95 from the Organic Gardening catalogue

Painted plant pots and saucers cost £9.99 from The National Trust





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A peer among scenic plotters

ME AND MY GARDEN: JEFFREY ARCHER

MARTIN BEDDALL

The Archers and their Gothic revival folly, where Jeffrey writes and Mary has an office. It was opened in a ceremony by John Major

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare is strolling along the River Cam at the bottom of his garden at The Old Vicarage, Grantchester, of Rupert Brooke's eponymous poem.

"I was sitting here with The Boss [John Major] having a quiet conversation and a punt came along. The fellow in it took one look at us and immediately fell out," he says.

Well, you would wouldn't you? Punting along dreaming of honey and ten-to-three, and the then Prime Minister and one of his more controversial colleagues heave into view where the "tunnel of green gloom" should be. Enough to make anyone fling themselves overboard.

The Cambridgeshire garden comprises a series of lawns surrounded by huge serpentine beds, mostly of small trees, shrubs and perennials: globe thistle, magnolia, pyrocanthus, willows, cherry, a mass of different forms of honeysuckle, viburnum, cotoneaster ... all tightly planted and neatly maintained, mostly by the gardener, Rachel Overy, and her helper.

In style it is different from the description Brooke gives in a letter to a cousin: "This is a deserted, lonely, dank, ruined, overgrown, gloomy house: with a garden to match." But an atmosphere of "peace and holy quiet" remains.

Shaded by some elderly trees to one side of the lawn at the back of the house is a castellated Gothic revival folly. The conservatory at the back of the folly, blue with plumbago, was opened by The Boss — and closed, during the same ceremony, by Billy Connolly. ("He just thought it had been open long enough so he closed it on the same afternoon," Jeffrey says.)

Jeffrey, who mentions his connections with Diana, Princess of Wales, Tom Stoppard and other celebrities within minutes of us meeting, remains close to a tranche of the great, good, powerful, rich and famous despite stunning upsets which might have overwhelmed anybody else: the bankruptcy for £450,000 ("I'm glad it happened when it did; I was young enough to recover"), a libel case over innocently giving money to a prostitute, and a share-dealing affair which caused him to apologise publicly to his wife.

Garden sculpture of a naked girl, chosen by Jeffrey

I ask him about his phoenix quality: how have the pair of them coped? Does her serenity see him through, or does he have rubber-ball genes? He prevaricates until Lady Archer (or Dr Archer as she is known as a scientist, or Mary as she prefers to be addressed), sewing serenely while we talk in their kitchen, says: "Answer the question, Jeffrey."

"Mary is a calm person. I am very focused. Anyway, everybody has blips in their lives," he says.

This brilliant double-act is reflected in the garden. Mary, with Ms Overy's help, is in charge of planting the three-and-a-half slightly limey acres, which was a jungly mass when they arrived in 1979.

"We have completed 18 years of a 100-year project," she says.

Mary's low-maintenance design gives a stillness to the garden, while Jeffrey's contributions provide the drama: swirling fish in the newly-built pond to one side of the house — "My idea," he says — and the statuary, mostly of naked girls.

The only area of disagreement is over sculpture, where their tastes do not always coincide. When Mary objects to a piece ("I just see them and fall in love," says Jeffrey, who reckons to visit galleries at least twice a week), he simply waits for her "to come round".

Co-operation comes in the placing of the sculptures: they position them by taking it in turns to stand in various spots which might benefit from an eyecatcher — "although I had no intention of doing a handstand," says Mary, referring to the late Sydney Harpley's bronze *Girl Doing a Handstand*, which teeters at one end of the old cricket pitch.

"This is our first real garden," says Mary, whose childhood home included a large garden and walled kitchen garden where she remembers a jungle of raspberry canes. "We open for charity through the National Gardens Scheme, which is the time of year when garden visiting takes on the aspect of a bloodsport."

Jeffrey has no garden memories. At Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, where he was brought up, young Jeffrey was too busy making money from deckchairs and ice-cream on the beach.

Every year the Archers have one major garden project. The most recent is a large kidney-shaped pond crammed with fish. "Usually I have the ideas and my wife's formidable brain makes it all happen," Jeffrey says. This is the man who greeted me with the words: "The garden is nothing at all to do with me. I want to make that clear."

We stroll past the 12-year-old yew hedge around the tennis court and Jeffrey demands to know why it isn't bigger. Soothing words from Mary about yew being a slow grower. "Well, it isn't good enough," he says.

When the greenhouse goes the Archer's next garden project will take shape on derelict land around the greenhouse site: a pergola will drip roses, the apology of a woodshed will be replaced and a machine store added, as well as a more formal composting system. At present, compost is made on a long, low heap beside the tennis court.

A beehive has been left near the woodland at the bottom of the garden as a sculptural eyecatcher and a reminder of Rupert Brooke.

There is the tinkling sound of water everywhere, from the moss-covered stone fountain at the centre of the lawn where the water spills into a round pool enclosed by lavender, to the trickle of two streams which flow into the kidney-shaped pool.

Before their sons were grown up, Jeffrey used to play cricket and football with them on the lawn in front of the house. Now, Mary has added more of her large curving beds to transform the sports field.

"Being a writer meant that I could go to the school footie match in midweek," Jeffrey says. "But one of the children finally asked me to stop taking him to school in case all the other children thought I was unemployed.

"I find it a peaceful garden," he says. It is difficult to imagine Tigger-like Archer being peaceful. He admits to being obsessed by time, planning "every minute of the day from 5am until midnight". He then warns how many minutes are left before the interview terminates.

The conversation turns to the Princess of Wales. He was the first Establishment figure to demand the reinstatement of the title HRH. "She really is irreplaceable," he says. "Diana and I were a great team. She knew how to use me and together we raised millions for charity. She just had to sign a tablecloth and it would go for thousands."

Jeffrey is a curious mix of pragmatist, wild card and Tory: a male life peer fighting for sexual equality in royal succession, for instance. "Who will be against me now after Diana?" he asks.

"I am a rebel and a revolutionary within the Conservatives. The Conservative Party needs to be completely reformed and we need to be as courageous as Tony Blair has been with Labour."

We head for the folly where he writes and Mary also has an office. A plaque on the side reads: "Mary's Second Folly."

So what was the first? "Oh, come on," Jeffrey says.

JANE OWEN

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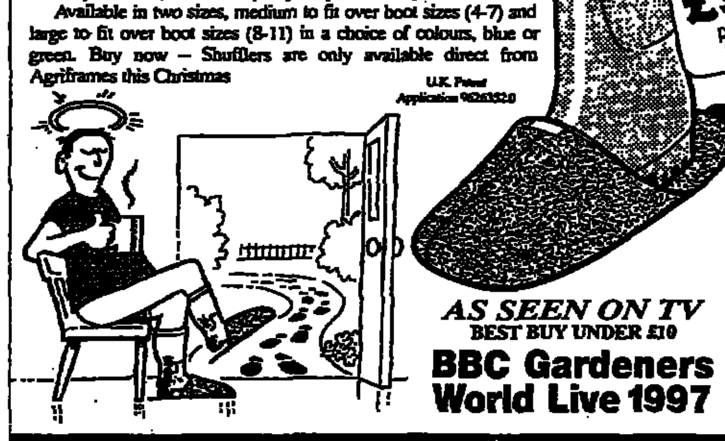

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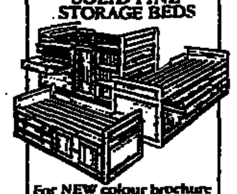

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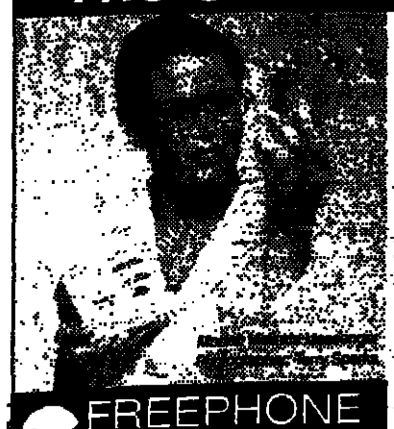

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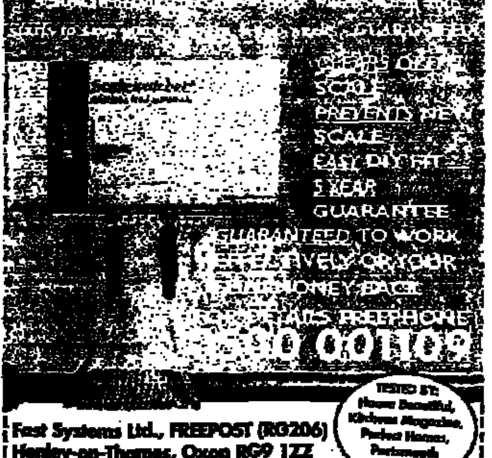

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'The bell struck with a rich note that must have hardly changed since it was hoisted in the century of Agincourt and Joan of Arc'

Pulling strings for the big peal

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

If you need convincing of the power of church bells, cast your mind back to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, when the tolling of the tenor bell of Westminster Abbey, sent shivers down spines worldwide. Or think of church bells at Christmas, ding-donging merrily on high; and at New Year ringing out the old and ringing in the new. Think of those bronze monsters, hanging silently, waiting faithfully for their moment on high days and holidays. And pity those parishes where economics have forced them to resort to electronic recordings, broadcast from belfries where magnetic tape and loudspeakers sit next to bemused pigeons.

Then feel sorriest of all for those parishes where the bells are there, the ropes intact and the bellringers willing, but where a large dollop of cash is needed before they dare ring them, lest several tons of bronze fall on the head of the verger at the first pull.

The parish of All Saints, Hacheston, in Suffolk, is one where the bells have not chimed this century. Yet, as in thousands of other "silent" churches in Britain, there is a determination that at midday on January 1, 2000, the bells will ring again. The only snag is that £60,000 is still needed; but in a gutsy little parish like this there is nothing that cannot be solved with coffee mornings, bring and buys and car boot sales.

One draughty Sunday afternoon a couple of weeks ago, I accepted their invitation to climb the tower of their church and see the silent bells for myself. I am something of a novice in the matter of belfries, associating them mainly with bats. But being atop a bell tower can be as inspiring as anything that happens a hundred feet below.

I met bellringer David Clough, who arrived complete with torch and British Telecom boiler suit. Appropriate, so the vicar Harry Edwards reminded me: bells are about communication. "The church bells were messengers. They brought news of war and peace, birth and death. They speak to the community."

Not these bells, not properly since 1850. They have been chimed as recently as 1958, but that's not the same as full circle ringing, and even with gentle chiming bricks started to fall. Even so, the congregation still remembers a Mr Hammond with affection, for it was his heroic task to pull a bell rope with each hand, another tied round his foot, and then go and pump the organ for the subsequent service.

When we had climbed the long, wooden ladder and scrambled on to a dusty medieval oak framework, still bearing the marks of adze and axe which shaped the timbers 500 years ago, it was clear why it will take a lot of coffee mornings to make these bells ring again.

Balancing on a beam, bracing himself against the wind blowing through the tower, David Clough reached out and caressed a bell. He could feel the cracks as he ran his fingers across it. Although it is the newest of the lot (made as recently as 1712 by Richard Phelps of London) it would need expensive recasting. Mr Clough points out that it was a tradition that the ringers didn't stay for the service. "Their job was to summon the faithful. They didn't have to go themselves." Mr Edwards says: "There was always a beer jug in the tower. It is a tradition we shall resurrect."

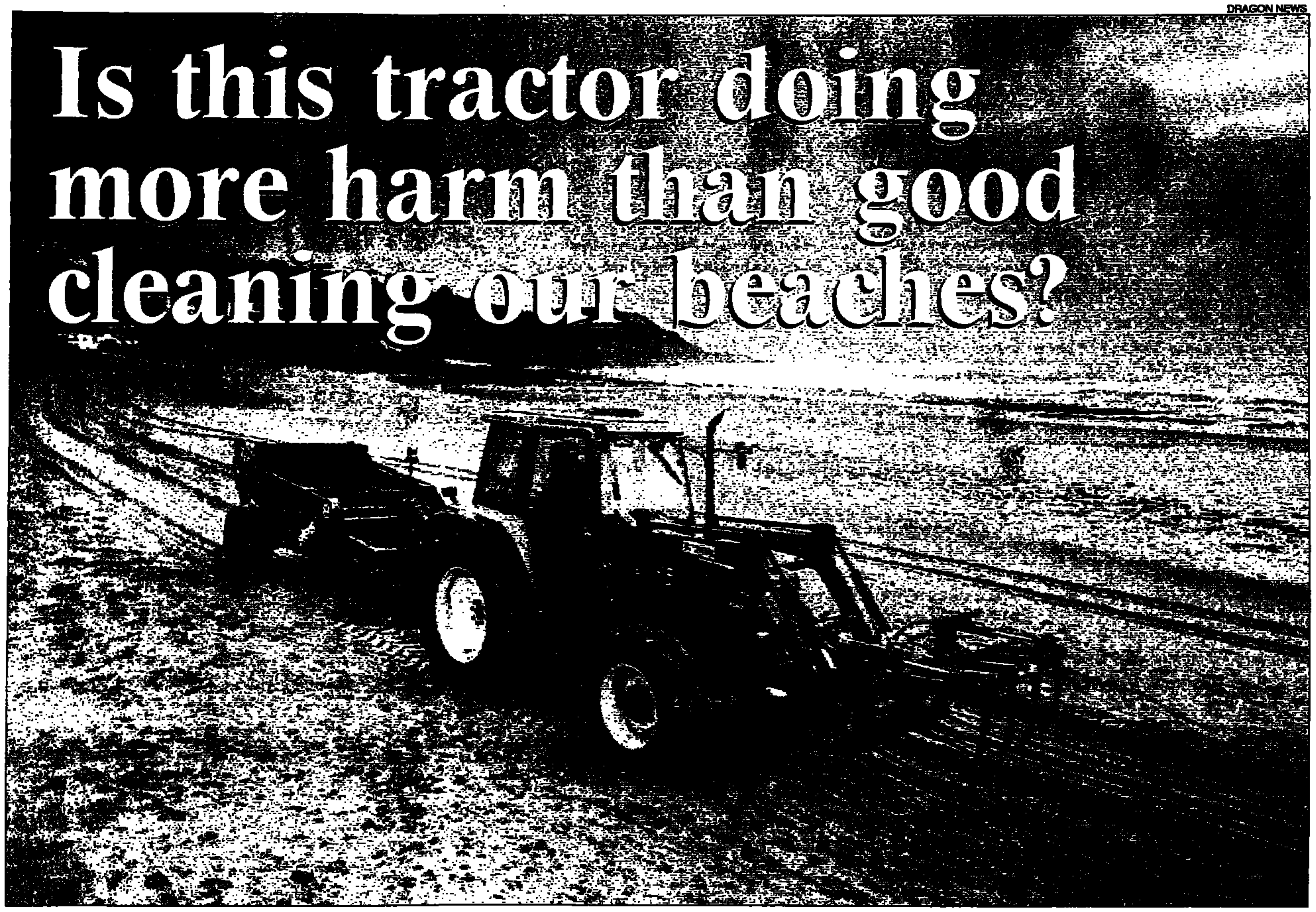
Then came the most moving moment of the visit. Mr Clough shuffled along a beam, spilling dust and chips of crumbling wood, and knelt until his hand reached down to another bell. In hushed tones he said: "This is the jewel in the crown of All Saints." We were looking at a bell cast between 1424 and 1482. Remarkably, of all the five bells, it seems to be in the best condition. In honour of its age and dignity, all the others will be retuned to this bell.

"Would you like to hear it?" he asked, like a vintner offering to uncork a rare bottle. We nodded. He held on to the wooden frame with one hand, and then reached down until he could grasp the clapper. He pulled it as far as he could and let go. The bell struck with a rich note that must have hardly changed since it was hoisted in the century of Agincourt and Joan of Arc. The purity of its sound was too powerful to interrupt and we crouched among the rot and splinters until the last of it died away. "Clear as a bell, eh?" said Mr Clough. That bell bears the inscription *Dulcis Sifto Melis Campa Tocoi Michis* — "Box of sweet honey. I am called Michael's bell". The other bells were newcomers, upstarts from 1589 and 1693.

Much money is needed to get all of Britain's silent bells ringing again, and you will excuse me if I join the repetitive chorus of voices who poke fun at the Greenwich dome. But if we are looking for a symbol for the new millennium, how do you compare a Teflon-clad blister with the cast bronze communicators from long ago that still stir us, that speak to the parish and bring together the secular and spiritual? If we must have Peter's dome, at least let us have the humility to save Michael's bell too.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Is this tractor doing more harm than good cleaning our beaches?



DRAGON NEWS

A tractor scours the sands at Swansea Bay, where a programme to remove natural debris has coincided with a decline in the wading bird population

In their desperation to attract more tourists, seaside resorts may be destroying their main attraction. **Alan Road** reports

The demand for squeaky-clean beaches that can win a coveted Blue Flag award is spoiling the shoreline, leading to erosion and a threat to wildlife

In their anxiety to win a coveted Blue Flag award for their pristine beaches, could seaside holiday resorts be destroying the very resource they aim to promote? Disturbing consequences of the quest for cleanliness have been uncovered recently by the University of Wales, Swansea, in a year-long biological baywatch project carried out by a coastal zone management group from the university.

New evidence from the group suggests that, contrary to popular wisdom, over-zealous cleaning of Britain's beaches could be doing more harm than good.

Paul Llewellyn, a 51-year-old member of the university team, believes that the mechanical cleaning of beaches carried out by local authorities threatens their stability.

"It has taken since the last Ice Age for the beaches we see today to build up," he says. "We could destroy them in a couple of decades."

The problem arises when the cleaning programme removes the strandline — the accumulated debris that is deposited twice daily at high water.

This fertile landmark, which includes organic material such as trees, grass, seaweed, algae and even dead animals, plays a vital role in beach ecology. On beaches like Swansea Bay, which is hoping to be awarded a Blue Flag in the next year or so, there can be a danger of over-keen local authorities trying to do too much cleaning, too often.

Mr Llewellyn finds it ironic that this new threat should be the consequence of a legitimate desire to reduce pollution. "Yesterday's grand idea of cleanliness is tomorrow's disaster," he says.

His research was carried out on the majestic seven-mile stretch of sand at the college's doorstep, which makes up Swansea Bay. The poet Walter Savage Landor once compared it favourably with the Bay of Naples, and parts of the seashore have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

As Mr Llewellyn talks on the windswept beach, a converted potato picker employed by council contractors to collect litter is methodically scouring the beach behind him.

His investigation was prompted by an unexplained decline in the local wading bird population at the beginning of the decade.

The biologist's suspicions immediately fell on a mechanical cleaning programme of the beach strandline carried out by the city council since 1983. The strandline is vital to the wading birds as well as a host of small animals, including voles, mice, hares and even foxes.

More to the point, the strandline is home to a declining population of tiny invertebrates from both land and sea which break down the decomposing vegetation. This is then distributed by wind and waves, acting as an important binding agent in the sand.

Mr Llewellyn has seen the same problems developing on other British beaches, especially in Cornwall. "On some," he says, "the invertebrate population has almost been wiped out."

On exposed shores, the endangered strandline also acts as a catalyst for embryo dunes, which in turn become home for plants such as saltwort, and sea sandwort that trap more sand. "Sand dunes are the most cost-effective method of coastal defence," the biologist says.

There is evidence of erosion of the dune frontage of the foreshore. In the event of southwesterly gales, great quantities of dry sand are blown inland and, appropriately, in the direction of the Guildhall in Swansea itself.

In the Guildhall, the local authority officials are caught in a dilemma. Since the decline of the local coal and steel industries, the city has striven to promote its image as a holiday resort. The tourists it courts are accustomed to squeaky-clean continental beaches. Only recently, a correspondent to the letters column of the local newspaper complained of a failure to remove pebbles from a beach.

Huw Morgan, the city's pollution control officer, points out that an alliance of local authorities with Welsh Water has signed up to a Green Seas initiative with a target of 500 Blue Flags for the Principality by 2000. "Who wants smelly old seaweed?" he muses.

Among the 29 criteria set out by the Tidy Britain Group for its Seaside Award, is one stipulating the complete removal of naturally occurring organic debris that makes up the strandline.

Seaweed should not be allowed to decay and become a "hazard distasteful to the public", the group's guidance notes decree.

"They have the attitude that the beaches are a recreational leisure facility and should be pristine clean," Mr Morgan says. "People see driftwood and seaweed thrown up by the tide and consider it an eyesore."

In 1992, Britain lost 90 per cent of its Blue Flag sites overnight when the water-quality threshold was raised. Last year just 38 beaches around Britain met the standards for water quality and facilities.

Although Messrs Morgan and Llewellyn appear to be on opposite sides in the battle of the Blue Flags, they share many objectives.

"We are aiming to introduce more hand-cleaning to the beaches," says Mr Morgan. "Mechanical cleaning doesn't just pose a threat to sand banks, it also thins the sand itself." This in turn makes it even easier to be picked up by wind.

Meanwhile, the biologist readily concedes the need to remove the less attractive detritus of modern life, such as plastic bottles, syringes, sanitary towels and condoms. Seaweed, however, is a different matter.

SHOOTING DOWN ECO MYTHS

■ Recycling trash was once *the* cornerstone of the American eco-revolution, but now collections of newspapers, plastic, glass and cans in Washington DC have been suspended. *Alex Wijeratne writes.* Analysts say it's more worthwhile to burn or landfill the garbage.

■ Once we were told to slot old newsprint into collecting bins, but now Imperial College says that transport between collection points and pulp centres adds more to global warming than any energy saved.

■ We were once advised not to flick fluorescent strip lights on and off — a greener, cheaper, energy-saving way to avoid power surges. But now, according to the Going for Green environmental group: "It's better if you turn them off even if you leave the room for five minutes."

■ Diesel was tipped as the fuel of the future — cheap, clean and efficient. Unfortunately, it gives off small particles that harm those with respiratory problems.

Highland warriors to the rescue

Derwent May on the unlikely saviours of the heather moors

Highland cattle are on the warpath. There was a time when these great shaggy animals roamed all over the Scottish moors, but in the late 18th century sheep began to take over their ancient territories and, like the Highland clans, the cattle faded away. Now, for several reasons, the tide is beginning to turn — and it is today's vast flocks of grazing sheep that are coming under threat.

Highland cattle certainly look like formidable warriors. Their flanks are massively armoured with long, rough wool that comes down to the top of the heather, and their fierce, curling horns rise above a fringe (called a dossan) that hangs like a visor over their eyes. In fact, they trot away through the heather quite nervously if they are approached.

It is not their fighting spirit but their eating habits that are behind the new interest being shown in them. They will eat anything — brambles, blaeberries, rushes and any dry, aged heather. But what they do not eat is even more important — and that is the new heather that springs up where the moors have been burned.

That is their essential difference from sheep, which thrive on those young heather shoots, and consequently do not allow the heather to regenerate. That does not particularly trouble the sheep farmers — grass is as good for them — but it is beginning to trouble conservationists. Many recent studies have shown how steadily the bird and animal life of the British uplands is dying — and that the main danger to the grouse, and the other moorland birds such as golden plovers and curlews, comes from the sheep and their destruction of the heather cover.

This is where the Highland cattle come in. They are being seen by many landowners, and by Scottish National Heritage, as potential saviours of the moors.

Keith Howman is a Scottish landowner with a 300-acre grouse moor near Pitlochry. Two years ago he put his first three Highlanders on it and now he has a "fold" (you must never call Highlanders a herd) of 16. Already he sees his heather improving, and he is planning an ideal fold of 35 Highlanders to replace the 200 sheep.

Aeneas Mackay has a farm on the Isle of Mull. He values his Highland cattle because they work together with the heather, keeping it low and youthful so that wildlife can flourish among it. He has curlews, and a great variety of wild flowers thriving where the cattle graze.

Farmland conservation schemes must always, of course, be underpinned by economics. But here, too, the future of Highland cattle has recently had an important boost — from, of all quarters, BSE. The long pedigrees of the Highland cattle and the fact that they feed outdoors all year round on rough, natural pastures has given beef consumers a fresh interest in them — and the "beef on the bone" crisis has boosted sales of Highland beef still further.

Hamish Wilson is the secretary of the Highland Cattle Society. He talks enthusiastically of the Guaranteed Pure Highland Beef scheme, under which beef is sold with the society's certificate, and the way shops such as Harrods have taken it up.

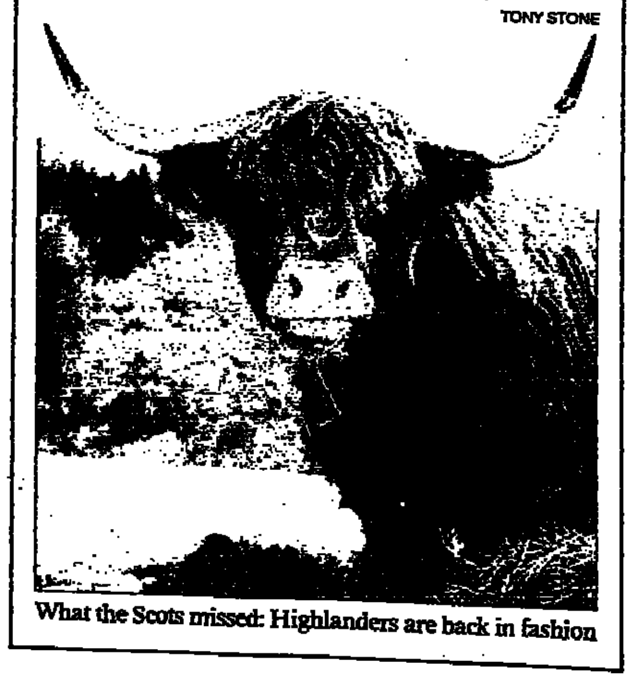
The cattle are also being used for conservation in mainland Europe. In France, grazing alongside Camarguan horses, they have brought back to life a great stretch of brackish land between Rouen and Le Havre. In the Swiss Alps, they are keeping the forests from spreading.

In the South of England, too, they are becoming more common. There is a fine fold of 90 cattle at Salters Heath Farm on the ridge just south of Sevenoaks, and Connie and Lady, the two star show-animals on the farm, are very familiar to commuters driving along the A21 Sevenoaks bypass.

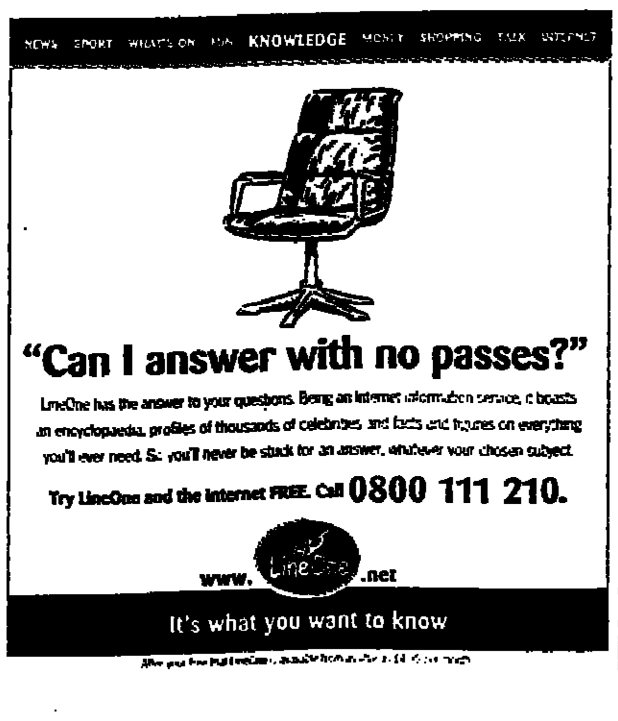
So sheep — look out! You may be luxuriating now with your fat subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy. But those Highlanders you drove out of their homes 200 years ago are starting to mass for their revenge.

● *The Highland Cattle Society is at 59 Drumlanrig Street, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire DG3 5LY (01848 330438).*

TONY STONE



What the Scots missed: Highlanders are back in fashion



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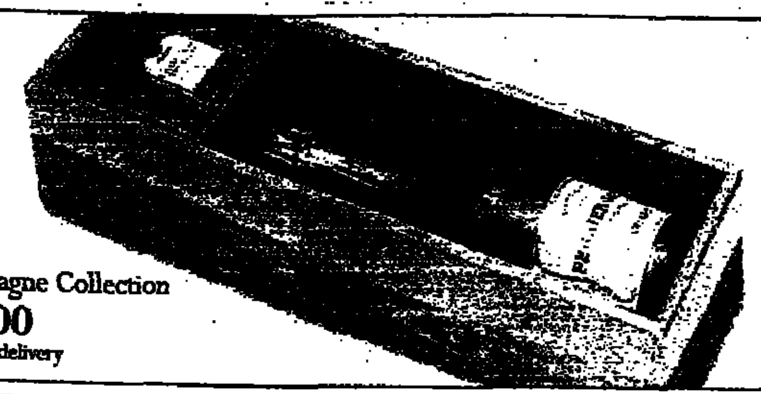

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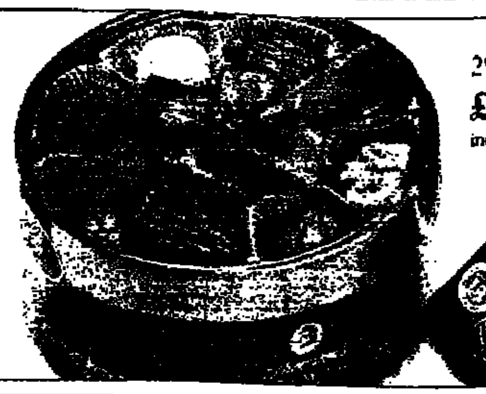

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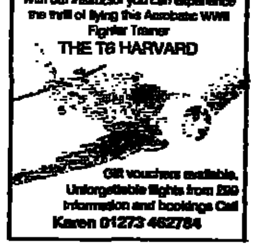

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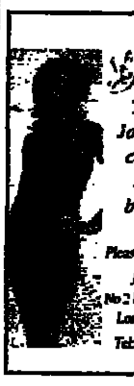

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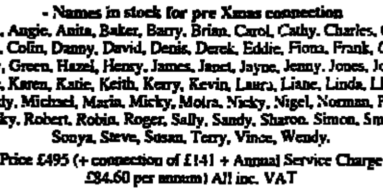

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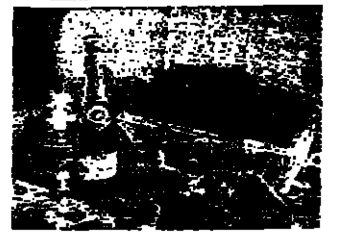

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Ensuring that our festive food passes the quality test is a year-long labour of love for experts, says **Madeleine Kingsley**

As you succumb to once-a-year foodie treats this Christmas, spare a thought for the unsung professionals who have spent the most of the past year sampling them in spades — or at the very least with dessert spoons.

Sally Rowe, a Christmas pudding and seasonal cake selector, has munched 500 plum puds since last Christmas. Barry Colenso, a chocolatier, has eaten 2,920 chocolates during 1997, and Mollie Kelly, who supplies turkeys to Harrods, will have fed her family about 20 birds in the weeks before Christmas Day. In the course of autumn gradings, Ian Skailes will have polished off the equivalent of nearly a whole 8kg Stilton.

Ms Rowe says that developing Christmas puddings for Marks & Spencer is her "dream job". Every day of the working week in the M&S kitchen at Baker Street in central London, or at the factory suppliers, the farmer's daughter with a first in home economics tries out 20 different cakes or puddings from existing lines, or sweetmeats-in-progress.

She started developing this season's new pudding more than a year ago, researching traditional recipes. "I began with an original Mrs Beeton, but found it too solid and full of egg for today's taste," she says.

Well into spring she was still trying out six or so variants with her development chef, tweaking the nutmeg and cinnamon content, and checking the texture. By May she had moved on to large-scale production trials. "I'm eating Christmas pudding when it's boiling hot outside. The fruity aroma wafts down my office corridor. Everyone sniffs and sighs 'Delicious', but I get used to it."

How Ms Rowe remains a svelte 8st 10lb seems a mystery that twice weekly aerobics can not entirely explain. "The secret," she says, "is that I only ever taste a small amount. You soon learn that the proper discipline is to chew, but then, like fine wine, spit out and not swallow."

By Christmas, you would think she would be sick of the sight of a pudding, but she says: "I'm quite looking forward to eating it without critical analysis for once — just a good piece of pudding on a proper plate with lashings of brandy cream."

Mr Skailes, the Stilton supplier to Fortnum & Mason and Harvey Nichols in London, will also relish his celebratory sliver of the king of blue cheeses. Having sold about 40,000 hand-made cheeses in November and December, he views Christmas as the completion of his year's work, "because the four-month run-up is really the harvest time".

He and his dairy manager and assistant test cheeses every Friday afternoon in the autumn. Each daily batch of Stilton is tasted, each cheese graded is on a scale from one to ten, and mature cheeses are randomly tested before dispatch.

Mr Skailes will eat about 5oz of Stilton during each end-of-week testing but says the build-up of these fairly hearty portions hasn't affected his waistline.

No one would make a similar claim for chocolate, though ten years of dreaming up novelties and then devouring the samples has done Mr Colenso, of Thorntons, Derbyshire, no obvious harm. At 41 and 6ft 2in, he weighs 13st 2lb. "My waist measurement is 35in, but I'm not fat, because I play squash twice a week and also do two aerobic sessions. I'm also quite careful about the meals I eat."

Mr Colenso, a former chef pâtissier at the Savoy hotel, where he made the Queen Mother's 85th birthday cake and indulged his "real fetish" for chocolate desserts, says he dreamed up this season's speciality range of all-American chocs while on a trip to the States. It entailed biting into hundreds of the Big Apples, Rocky Road Pralines and Pecan Caramel Haystacks. "I try to complete all my tasting by 11am, because after that hunger could distort my reaction," he says. "I taste only with a glass of water, never coffee or tea, which can confuse the taste buds."

Near Chelmsford in Essex, Mollie Kelly, who is 68 and officially retired from the family turkey business, continues to taste birds all year round. Her speciality is an old breed of bronze-feathered turkeys that was in danger of dying out before the family revived it about 12 years ago. "We'd be sick of turkey if I always roasted it, but I use the dark meat as you would lamb or beef for curries, stews and goulash.

"We eat turkey at least twice a week all year, and panels of housewives also pass judgment on the best breast meat taste for our customers.

"All our birds are free-range, but some are reared on grassland, some on corn stubble. We like birds fed on 70 per cent grain and hung (refrigerated, of course) for three weeks — four if we really had our way.

"It's interesting that the younger our panel, the less hanging they like. I think the young are much more accustomed to bland food."

Mrs Kelly would rather eat her turkey with apple sauce than cranberry — though not at Christmas. "It's a family joke," she says, "that having sampled so many turkeys, we'd all rather have goose on the day."

ASHLEY COOMBES

Sally Rowe, left, tastes 500 plum puddings for M&S

THREE TEMPTERS

FEW OF US give much thought to the dedication and effort that lies behind the delicacies which we eat only once a year. Just look at what these three experts have to put up with for our benefit.

Turkey: taster Mollie Kelly eats the meat twice a week

Stilton: expert Ian Skailes eats 8kg every autumn

Chocs: chef Barry Colenso eats hundreds of them

THE 1997 MEL CALMAN CARTOON AWARDS

THIS is the final call before Christmas to remind readers of the hunt by *The Times* and the British Cartoonists' Association (BCA) to find the young cartoonist of the year. The awards are in memory of Mel Calman, who provided a daily pocket of wryness on the *The Times* front page for 15 years until his death in 1994.

This year the judges are looking for a single frame cartoon, in colour or black and white, that makes a joke on a topical national news story.

The aim is to find unknowns, under 30, who can join some of today's leading cartoonists: Matt of *The Daily Telegraph*, Steve Bell at *The Guardian*, Pugh, Robert Thompson and Peter Brookes of *The Times*.

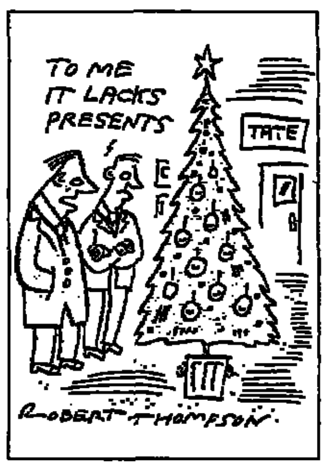
There are five categories of award up for grabs. The first prize is £1,500, with two runners-up prizes of £500 each. There is also a £500 award for the winner of the under-18 category. The *Dictionary of British Cartoonists 1730–1980* (signed by the authors and judges) will be presented to the winner of the Special Commendation Prize.

Last year's winner was Richard Tomes, of Solihull, West Midlands. Since then, as well as regularly contributing to *The Express*, he says he has had all sorts of other offers — "some of which are even paid for". After receiving the award, his first rejection letter was from Richard Ingrams at *The Oldie*. The letter is now framed and hangs above his winning plaque. Despite this rebuttal, Tomes, now 30, says the Mel Calman awards are "the only ones to win".

The judges, chaired by John Jensen, chairman of the British Cartoonists' Association, will be: Chic Jacob, treasurer BCA; Mark Bryant, secretary BCA; Peter Maddocks, founder of the BCA; Pat Huntley, secretary, Friends of the Cartoon Art Trust; Enzo Apicella, BCA member; David Driver, head of design, *The Times*; Peter Brookes, political cartoonist, *The Times*; Steve Bell, political cartoonist, *The Guardian*; Claire Calman, writer and daughter of Mel Calman; Posy Simmonds, cartoonist; and Nicholas Wapshott, Saturday editor, *The Times*.

The award is open to any British national under 30 on January 31, 1998. There are two categories: under 30 and under 18. Cartoonists already working for a national newspaper may not enter. Entrants may submit their cartoons on paper, board or card, up to A4 in size. Do not sign the front. Entries — previously unpublished — should be marked on the back with the applicant's name, date of birth, address and telephone number, and sent to: The Mel Calman Awards 1997, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7FZ.

If you are under 18, mark the back of your entry "under 18". Copyright remains with the cartoonist but originals will not be returned; entrants should photocopy their work. The closing date is January 31, 1998. Copies of these rules may be obtained from: British Cartoonists' Association, 3 Clapham Park Terrace, Lyham Road, London SW2 5EA. Please include an SAE.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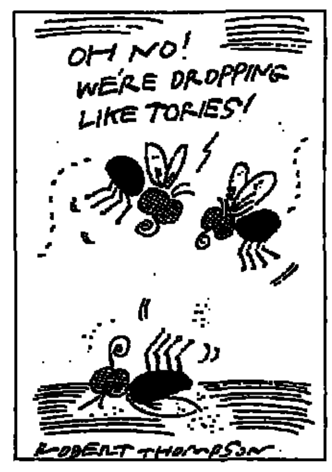
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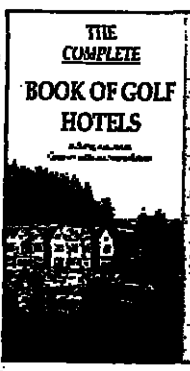

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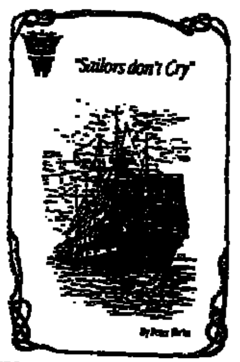

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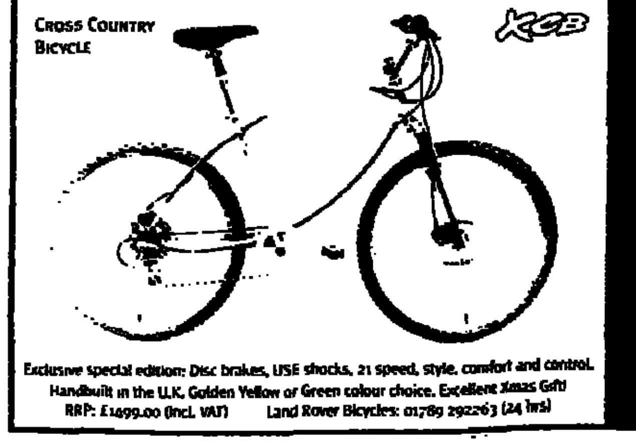

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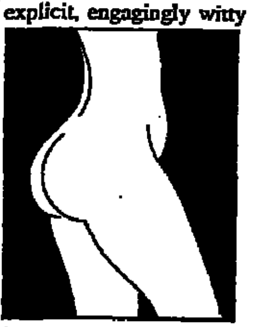

هكذا من الأجل

'My son was persuaded that it would be unkind to disappoint his public and so will appear in church in a hand-towel headdress'

Pity Macaulay Culkin's mother

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

I am beginning to think that I have more in common than I had realised with Macaulay Culkin's mummy. The school nativity play takes place on Thursday and for days now it has been quite impossible to have a telephone conversation with a girlfriend without being interrupted by an imperious demand from Alexander to "watch me rehearsing". "In a minute, darling," one says vaguely and carries on gassing about really important things.

"What exactly *did* it mean when he said on the phone last night, 'See you *very soon*'? Are the silver lace dress, the glass slippers, the diamanté tiara and the chinchilla-trimmed coat a bit too Paula Yates for midnight mass in a remote Kentish village, or should I just go for it?" In the ear not pressed to the telephone, the droning chorus that small children seem able to keep up indefinitely without getting bored or drawing breath gradually rises from noisy to deafening: "Mum, Mum, watch me rehearse Mum."

"Look, Luce, we'll have to settle this about the frock later," I say. "I am still not convinced. Oh, come on then, Alexander, get on with it, if you absolutely must." At this, for only the fiftieth time this week, he begins to run very fast round and round in tight circles, emitting a piercing hum. "Lovely, darling," I cry encouragingly, wondering for the fiftieth time this week what on earth he is meant to be. Could be anything, really. An aeroplane? A bee? To ask him would be to lose my small private bet with myself that I will get it in the end.

It has to be said that I failed dismally last time we had this rehearsing business, at the end of the summer term. Then there were strange, geisha-like, oddly graceful gestures of the hands and arms that turned out, after intense speculation, to be Alexander imitating the action of a panda.

But when, worn down by humming and curiosity, I gave in and asked what precisely it was that he was rehearsing this time, he was maddening unspecific, announcing at first that he was a wise man going on a very long journey, and a bit later that he was a child of all the world doing a child of all the world dance. I suppose I shall just have to wait until next Thursday afternoon to find out. Whatever the answer, it is fairly safe to say that I shall be blubbing — and not merely with relief at the prospect of an end to the horrible sound of humming.

Meanwhile, he has been head-hunted by one of the ladies at his grandparents' church, who would like him to be a shepherd. There was initially a certain amount of resistance to this idea — no doubt he was fearful of straining his instrument — which was not helped by Grandma's revelation that the cast might include a live donkey and also, possibly, the miracle that is modern agri-business permitting, a real baby lamb. Alexander is chillingly indifferent to the charm of animals, unless they are pandas. But he was eventually persuaded that it would be too unkind to disappoint his public, and accordingly will be appearing at morning service on December 21 in a homespun robe and hand-towel headdress. And a jolly good thing too, since not only will it give me a second opportunity to cry my mascara all the way down my cheeks in public, but also there is a chance that it may get the facts of the nativity straight in his mind, where, I suspect a certain confusion exists.

It began with the *Star Wars* Advent calendar bestowed on him by a kindly relative. I arrived home one evening to find this heathen object — coal black, with the menacing phiz of Darth Vader staring out of it, surrounded by Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia *et al* in little golden halos — reposing in the middle of the kitchen table. No chance of suppressing it, since Alexander had already clocked it, and was entranced.

Before he opened the first window, I delivered a priggish lecture. Advent, I said, is the time when we are waiting for Baby Jesus to be born. And Darth Vader has nothing to do with Baby Jesus. Is that quite clear?

Yeah, yeah, said the child, prising open window number one and devouring the sweetie within. I countered by producing an Advent calendar of my own, a wonderfully tasteful item from the National Gallery whose little windows open to reveal choirs of angels, annunciations, travel-stained magi and so on. The picture on the front, however, is a jolly Avercamp snow scene of lords and ladies and rude mechanicals skating and quaffing and burping and falling over on the ice on to their bottoms. Alexander thinks it is a hoot. Baby Jesus is conspicuous by his absence.

OK, I said to Alexander, we will now go and look at some pictures of the nativity. So we got on a train to Trafalgar Square and went to the National Gallery (still free to get in, and a good thing too. Imagine stumping up a tenner every time you needed to explain to your six-year-old about the ox and ass and camel which adore). And we made our way through rooms full of glorious nativity scenes. Look, I said, there are Mary and Joseph and the shepherds, with their bagpipes. No Darth, no Luke, no Jabba the Hut . . . Got that?

Mmm hmm, said my son. But he narrowed his eyes, and I could see him thinking that just beyond the picture frame, where I am too stupid to see them, lurk Darth and his stormtroopers with their blasters, waiting for the moment when I turn my back and they can swoop in and sort out the babe in the manger good and proper.

Their children's Christmas was high on the agenda for Earl Spencer and Paula Yates

But I want to be with Daddy

Christmas is a stressful time for divorced couples, says **Liz Gill**

It was a bitter divorce but Heather and Simon Davies agreed to put their children first at Christmas. One year Charlotte, six, and Emma, four, would stay with Heather, the next year with Simon. The system worked well for three years — the children were dropped off on Christmas Eve and picked up on Boxing Day. But then Heather met someone else, Jeff, to whom she is now married. He brought with him two children from a previous marriage, and then sparks began to fly. Emma and Charlotte took such a dislike to their new step-siblings that by early December they told their father that, although it was their mother's turn to have them for Christmas, they could not face playing happy families.

"It was a nightmare for the girls," says Simon, 38, a partner in an estate agency. "They tried talking to their mother, but she was adamant that they should stay with her. She cried and raged at them, using emotional blackmail. I had no choice but to go back to court."

At this time of year the courts are swamped with last-minute applications for contact orders for children. It was widely rumoured to be a row with Bob Geldof over where his children were to spend the festive season that led to Paula Yates disastrous delayed flight to Australia last month. You can be sure that where the kids go for Christmas was high on the agenda in the recent divorce proceedings between Earl and Countess Spencer.

Alison Hayes, a family law specialist at solicitors Mishcon de Reya, says: "The same people apply to the courts year after year. If you're taking court action over children it's obviously been an acrimonious divorce and Christmas quarrels are an extension of that. People feel so embittered by how badly an ex-spouse has behaved that they won't concede even 12 hours of their children's time."

Thelma Fisher, director of National Family Mediation, is anxious to encourage families to try mediation before they resort to the law. She says: "The courts are a clumsy method of solving things. By the time you get to court you are worked up with all the fighting. It doesn't always provide the best solution."

Carolyn and Adam Hebden have come to a compromise. They spend Christmas in Carolyn's mother's large house in Dorset with their three children and various relatives. They watch Sarah, eight, George, six, and three-year-old Fred open their stockings. They go to church, dine on turkey and play games. Then they will go back to separate houses.

"We decided to do it this way because anything else seemed too awful," says Carolyn, 38. "The separation was traumatic for the children so we try to put them first. Christmas has always been a big deal for us and we thought we should work something out for their sake.

"Obviously we sleep in different rooms but we try to do other things together, like watching the children opening their presents. It's a strain but it's only for a couple of days. If my ex-husband annoys me I leave the room.

"It can be quite difficult for my parents, welcoming him into their house with open arms but it can be good to have family members there."

The biggest danger, she believes, is that the children may see the festive reunion as a prelude to the real thing. "Children always want their parents to get back together so you must make them realise that it is just for Christmas."

Thelma Fisher recommends working out Christmas arrangements as far in advance as possible. "Even if you separate in midsummer, you should include it in your plans and consult the children if possible. Christmas is a pressure point because parents may feel a sense of failure more acutely at this time of year. Feelings can run very high. Children are doubly sensitive and dread the conflict turning on them. The worst thing they can feel is that they are being fought over."

Some parents, however, have left it too late. John Leicester has not had a full Christmas with his children since his 14-year marriage collapsed in 1991. "We are supposed to take it in turns but my ex-wife always puts pressure on the children to be with her. I might be allowed an hour with them in the morning or for part of Boxing Day.

"Christmas used to be great once but I feel it's not Christmas any more. My son is now 19 and my daughter 15 and those years have been lost. I know parents who are on their own at this time of year who feel suicidal."

A common solution is to divide the holiday: one parent has Christmas Eve and half of Christmas Day; the other has the rest of Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Jeremy Freedman, of solicitors Freedman Green, a firm specialising in divorce cases, says: "I have this bleak vision of convoys of children criss-crossing the country at 5pm on Christmas Day. It seems a thoroughly miserable idea, but a lot of this is about the desires of the parents. In an egocentric age people often ask what is the best present they can give themselves and they decide it's having the kids."

In the Davies case, the law came down in favour of Heather. It was felt that what had worked as a system previously should not be threatened. Only children of nine and over are consulted by the court welfare officer. Simon says: "This year it's my turn to have the kids but if they are unhappy going to my ex-wife's house next year I will go back to court. Christmas is supposed to be a happy time, and if the kids aren't happy where they are, they should be with their dad."

All names have been changed.

● *National Family Mediation, 0171-383 5993*

REX

Christmas with Mummy or Daddy? At this time of year the courts are swamped with last-minute applications for contact orders for children

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Is it patronising to give Christmas boxes? **Louisa Young** takes advice on a tricky business

There you are my good man

"FUNNY things, Christmas boxes," said the comedian on the telly. "This huge man came to my door and said: 'Merry Christmas. I'm the man who empties your bins.' Oh really? I replied. I'm the man who fills them."

Which is all very amusing, but the fact remains: the Christmas box is a contentious issue. Some maintain vigorously that it is nothing more than a protection racket. If you want your rubbish removed rather than distributed along the garden path; if you want your parcels left with the neighbour rather than folded carefully along the "do not bend" instruction and crammed through the box; if you want your milk left in the shade on a sunny morning, then you must stick those fivers in those envelopes and cheerily hand them over.

I do not go along with the protection-racket view. I simply suspect the dustmen have better things to do through the rest of the year than remember who came up with the goods and who failed to deliver.

None of which answers the question: do you or don't you?

John Morgan of *The Times* Modern Manners column, and author of *Debrett's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners*, thinks we should. He says: "It's a gesture of goodwill and a very old tradition. When people ran large houses, it was as if they were running a company, and at Christmas everyone would get extra cash which would top up their wages and show they were appreciated.

"Nowadays it is hard to know what to give. A simple rule is that you never tip management, only employees. So you would give a box to anyone that you pay for services, and to anyone who provides services regularly, and with whom you have some kind of relationship — milkman, postman, dustbin man, anyone who delivers things regularly."

What about the cleaner? "Definitely. And you must give her a present, too, because it's such a personal relationship. You should give anything from £20 to £200, depending on your means. In a block of flats, you must give a box to the porters, the gardener, and the handyman. Don't just give it to the head porter to hand on, put it in individual envelopes with names on. It must always go in an envelope, because the handing-over of cash is potentially embarrassing. And put in a card — it really is appreciated."

What about the mother who picks your child up from school and gives him tea on a regular basis? "Don't give her money, give her a present. If you pay her as a childminder, then you must give her money. Favours get presents, payroll get tips."

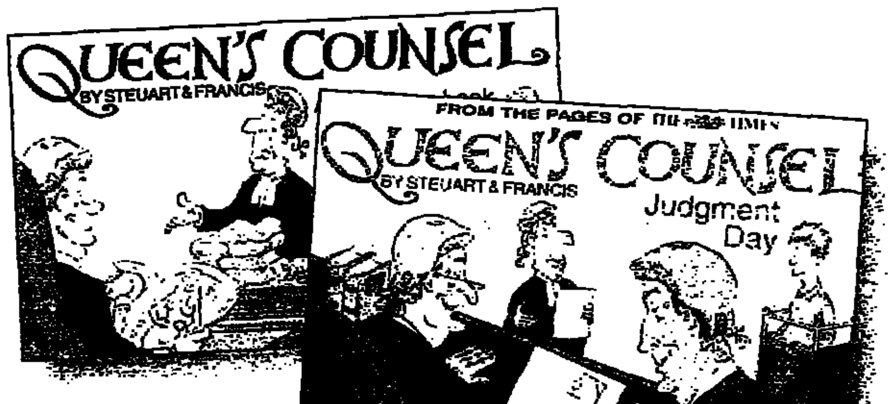
Generosity is meant to be part of Christmas. But isn't it wrong when it is forced, when you are only generous for fear of being thought mean, especially when you find that there are ten people (eggman, vegetable man, postman, milkman, window cleaner, binmen, cleaner, childminder, handyman, gardener) to whom you are meant to give? And how much are you meant to give them?

"Not less than £10 but £20 is better. Of course, it depends on your means. A fiver is better than nothing — it's the fact of giving that is really appreciated."

Ten people at £20 each would be £200 — quite a lot to be seen to be generous. The only answer is to be genuinely generous. And after all, if you are employing all those people you cannot be that poor. Or you could be genuinly skint, and face the consequences. And who knows? Perhaps someone will give you a Christmas box.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Queen's Counsel



In these two collections of the best of *The Times's* weekly legal cartoon strip *Queen's Counsel* by Steuart and Francis (one an ex-barrister turned Hollywood film animator, the other a practising solicitor) lawyers do not always come out on top. (Unlike in the real world where, according to the authors, win or lose, lawyers always get a fee. Worse, they speak gibberish and wear clothes that were in fashion during the reign of Charles II.)

The cast of this ruthless satire on the legal profession includes Sir Geoffrey Bentwood QC, Richard, from the law firm Paye Cash & Praye, and the victimised client Mr Sprockett. As Richard fiddles his time sheets, Sir Geoffrey is arrested for kerb-crawling. It will appeal to everyone who enjoys a laugh at the expense of the legal profession.

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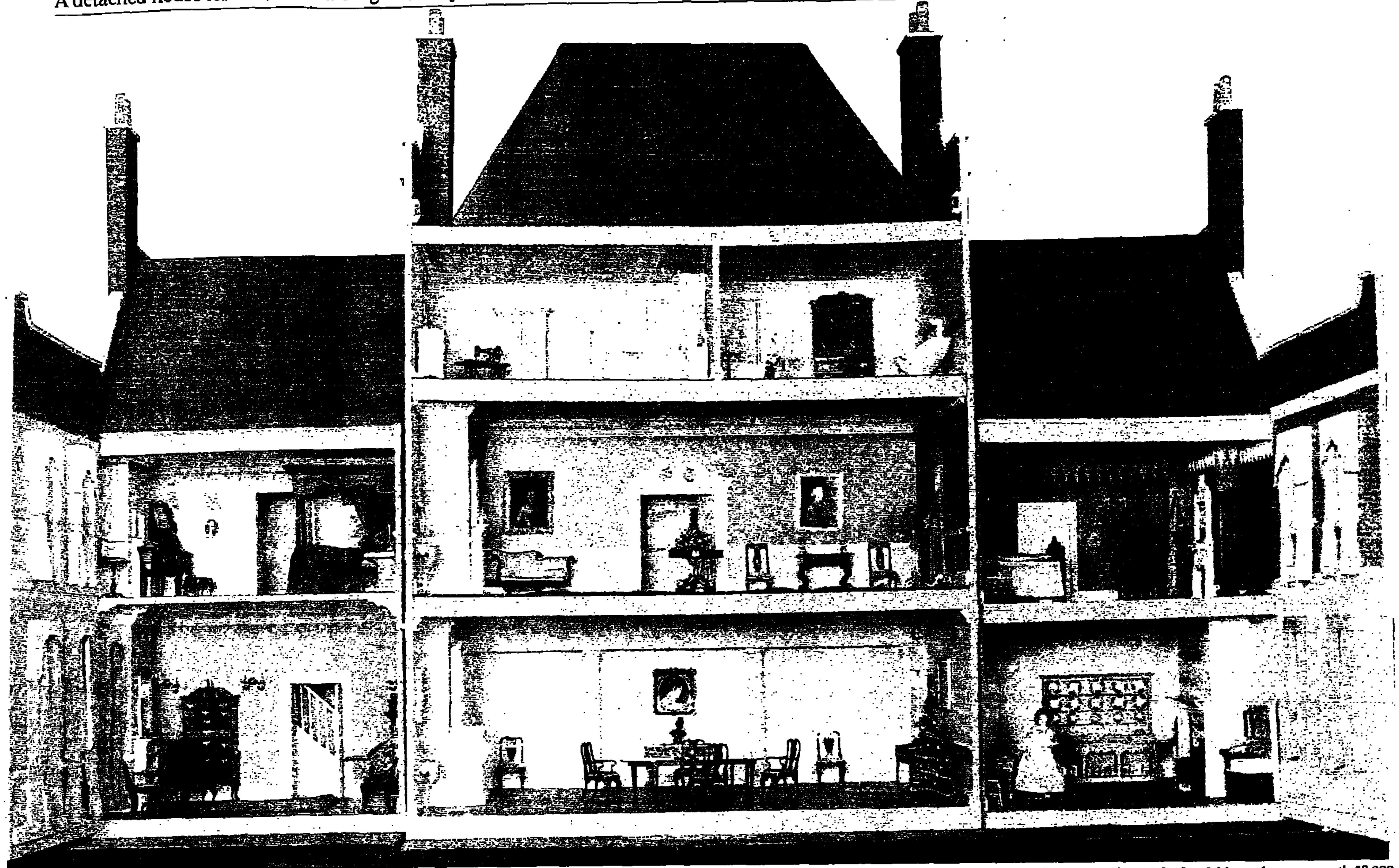
CHANGING TIMES

A detached house for £20,000 is a bargain, but you'd have to be knee-high to a grasshopper to live in it. **Guy Walters** views a little house with big ideas



Simon Herrtage had this magnificent doll's house built as a present for his mother. The house is a copy of Island Hall, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, where the Herrtage family once lived. The furnishings alone are worth £8,000

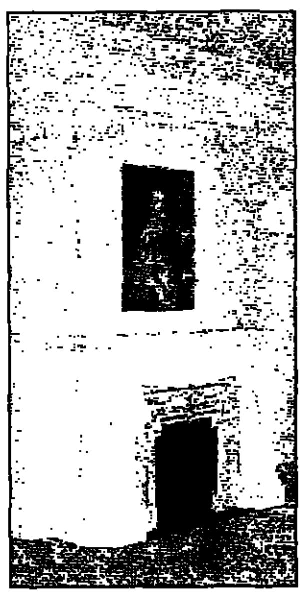
Small world isn't it?

If a doll's house is any good, then children should not be allowed anywhere near it. Kids, who tend to eat anything small, see the contents of doll's houses as dietary supplements, and will not blanch at lining their stomachs with bonsai furniture and the odd chimney. Lego is a much safer *(and cheaper) alternative — so* much harder for a child to chew than a miniature lacquered cupboard.

Doll's houses are undoubtedly for adults. They may pretend they bought it for little Jemima, but it's crusts and water for a week if she even touches it. After all, adults don't break things, only children do.

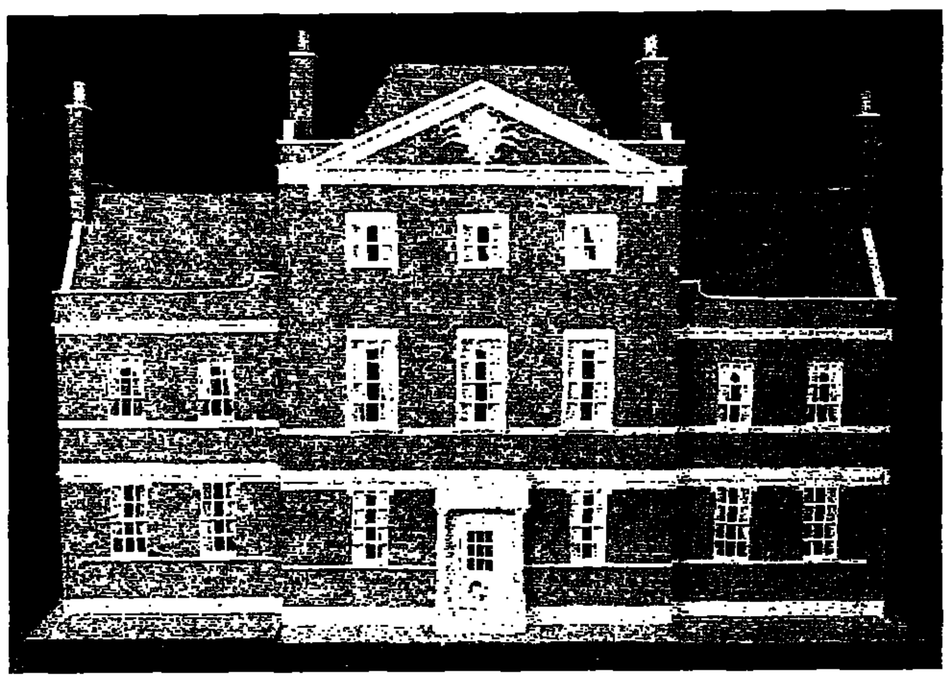
Neither, it appears, are doll's houses for women. This is a big-bucks world for big boys with big wallets. As with chefs, most of the famous craftsmen are men. Perhaps only men have the ridiculous fastidiousness required to hand-carve a 4in Welsh dresser or make a Christmas pudding the size of a ball bearing.

Simon Herrtage is one such man. He is the vendor of Island Hall, a magnificent pile of a doll's house on sale through Savills for £20,000. With a length of six foot, it is *perhaps larger than that* Knightsbridge broom cupboard which appears on the market every five years. Mr Herrtage commissioned James Hamilton Hastings to build the doll's house in 1985 for £12,000. It was a present for his mother, who had lived with him at the original house in Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire. Mr Herrtage had bought the house as a ruin in 1978 for £28,000, and over the next few years he restored it *and installed his mother there,* before selling it in 1983.



The minute furnishings in Island Hall are exquisitely detailed

Island Hall Junior is a memento, but a memento that was starting to take up too much space in Mr Herrtage's mother's flat, hence the reason for its sale. The asking price is exceptionally good value, as Mr Herrtage says that he has spent £8,000 on the furnishings. Thus £20,000 is cost *price,* making Island Hall one of the few properties to ignore the perilous fluctuations of the housing market.



HOUSE OF THE **WEEK**

It is also exquisite. The adjective may well be a cliché when applied to doll's houses, but in this case it is utterly appropriate. When the doors are opened, it really is akin to entering a house where the Borrowers would feel luxuriously at home. Take the kitchen, at the bottom right of the house. Next to the cooker there is even a drawer full of miniature cutlery, as well as a range made from real cast iron. And on the table you will find Mr Herrtage's mini-Christmas pudding.

The kitchen, however, is basic compared with the other rooms, all of which are based on the real Island Hall. Above it is the Gothic bedroom, in which is found the most expensive items of furniture — the lacquered wardrobe, bed and dressing mirror, which cost Mr Herrtage £1,000. You could go mad in Ikea with this sort of money.

There is another significantly pricey item — the Carlton House table in the ground-floor dining hall, which is valued at about £750. Even its tiny drawers are dovetailed together.

The table and chairs in the dining hall were made by Patrick Puttock, a retired soldier. "There seem to be a lot of old colonels involved in the doll's house world," says Mr Herrtage. "The fascination for men is seeing how well something can be reproduced." If this is the case, then Mr Puttock must be having a great retirement, because his work is exemplary.

Mr Herrtage made much of the furniture himself. He is an interior decorator, so his professional skills lend themselves well to his hobby. "I became interested in doll's houses when I saw Titania's Palace on show in Harrods many years ago," he says. "It was exquisite."

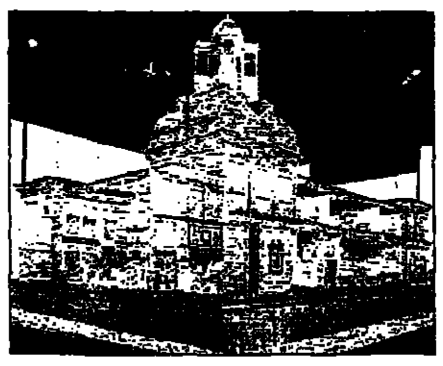
Mr Herrtage's masterpiece is the four-poster bed in the bedroom at the top left of the house. It took him months to make, and even the silk is antique — bought at auction. "Modern silks don't lend themselves to being used this small," he says, "so I had to find an antique." Next to the bed is a table, upon which there is a glass, in which, you've guessed it, there is a pair of tiny false teeth.

Below that bedroom is a study — a very male study, with a campaign chair and a pair of pistols. There is a photo album, and in it are tiny photographs, but the study is not male enough to boast an album of erotica surreptitiously tucked into a drawer, although Mr Herrtage confessed that it was a good idea. No doubt, if you read the right collectors' magazines, you will find some miniature pornography somewhere.

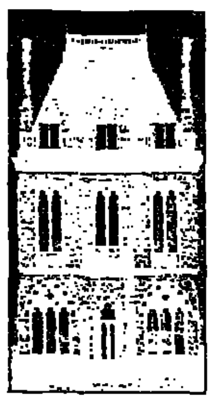
● *Island Hall is at Savills, 139 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9AY. Viewing is by appointment only. Contact Clare Berry on 0171-824 9116.*

These tiny books in the study can be opened

DREAM **DOLL'S HOUSES**



Titania's Palace (above) was designed by Sir Nevile Wilkinson for his daughter. The 16-room palace, which took 15 years to build and was opened by Queen Mary in 1922, has electricity, heating and a painting by Sir Samuel Palmer. It was sold to Legoland in Denmark in 1978 for £135,000, where it is on display.



Gothic villa (left) built by Viscount Linley as a showcase for his cabinet-making skills. Inspired by the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, the doll's house has three floors and nine rooms. It took 700 hours to build and more than 2,000 pieces of veneer were used throughout the structure.

Queen Mary's Doll's House (above), designed by the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built in 1921-24 as a gift to the Queen from the nation. Based on an English gentleman's home, the house has more than 40 rooms on four floors with two staircases, lifts, electric lights, hot and cold running water and lavatories that flush. It includes the work of 1,500 tradesmen, artists and authors, such as Thomas Hardy and Rudyard Kipling. It is on display at Windsor Castle.

Lacquered wardrobe from the Gothic bedroom

MARKET COMMENT

DOLL'S HOUSE collectors may not need to worry about mortgages or surveyor's reports, but they'll have to be prepared to put down more than Monopoly money. The house is only the beginning — costs really start to mount once you begin to fill it.

The majority of adult collectors want to recreate a world in miniature and to play with it: they buy a doll's house or a kit to make one themselves, or have one built by a craftsman, and then fill it with handmade furniture in keeping with the period. These are modern, though often high-quality Georgian or Victorian reproductions; the important factor is the scale, which is usually one-twelfth life-size.

They are catered for by numerous craft fairs, shops such as the Singing Tree in Fulham or the Doll's House Shop in Covent Garden, both in London, and specialist magazines such as *International Doll's House News* and *Doll's House World.*

A TRIP to the doll's house department in Hamley's, the toy shop in London, will set you back between £40 and £175 for the furnishings. The bill then rises rapidly with a ceramic bath costing £60 and a double bed £40. Unfurnished houses from a top-class modern craftsman such as Kevin Mulvany, meanwhile, start at £20,000. It can be an expensive business to keep a second house, even a miniature one.

The second and much smaller group of doll's house enthusiasts are collectors of antique toys. A good 1930s or 1950s house can be picked up for £200 or £300 but those from the 18th century are rare and valued at £10,000 plus.

The major auction houses have several antique toy sales each year at which a section is devoted to doll's houses. The next such auction is at Christie's on February 12, and features around 40 lots.

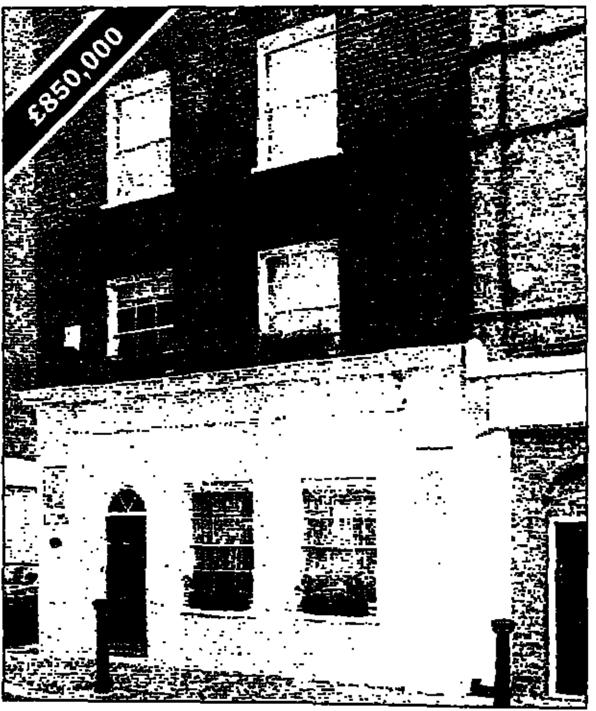
FAITH GLASGOW

HOME SWAP

A REPORT from the Land Registry shows a 7.7 per cent rise in average residential property prices in England and Wales during the three months to the end of September, compared with the same period last year. The average price of a home was £79,804, compared with £74,088 a year ago. The figures also show a rise in prices of 3.2 per cent on the previous three months.

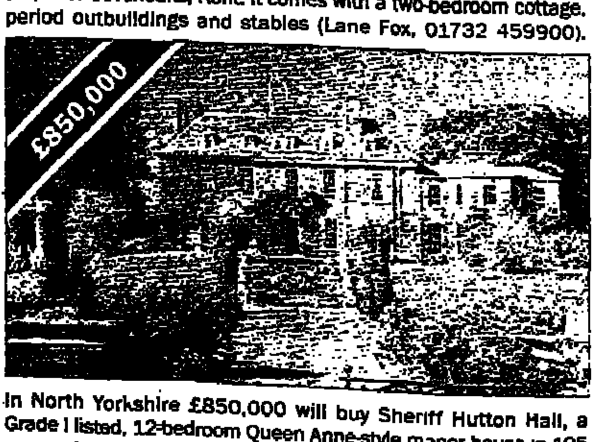
Kensington and Chelsea (up 15 per cent) is still the most expensive London borough, with an average price of £287,510. The biggest increase in prices was in the City of Westminster, and *Hammersmith and Fulham, with gains of more* than 22 *per* cent. Greater London prices moved up 12 per cent, with an average price of almost £120,000.

The most expensive county is Surrey (up 13 per cent), where the average home costs £137,246, followed by Buckinghamshire at £127,000 and Berkshire, *Oxfordshire and* Hertfordshire *at about* £107,000. However, prices may have peaked. In the first six months of this year, average prices in England and Wales were up 9 per cent on the previous year; 13 per cent in London, according to the registry.



This charming four-bedroom freehold period house (a former dairy), with a large roof terrace, in Old Church Street, between the King's Road and Cheyne Walk in London's Chelsea, has a price tag of £850,000 (Aylesford, 0171-351 2383).

For a little more (£875,000), you can buy *Scords Farmhouse, a* Grade II listed 16th-century six-bedroom Kentish farmhouse in 6.5 acres of formal gardens, paddocks and woodland, at Toys Hill, near Sevenoaks, Kent. It comes with a two-bedroom cottage, period outbuildings and stables (Lane Fox, 01732 459900).



In North Yorkshire £850,000 will buy Sheriff Hutton Hall, a Grade I listed, 12-bedroom Queen Anne-style manor house in 105 acres of walled gardens, parkland and woodland. It is ideal for entertaining with five reception rooms, a music room and a *ballroom* (Savills, 01904 620731).

CHERYL TAYLOR

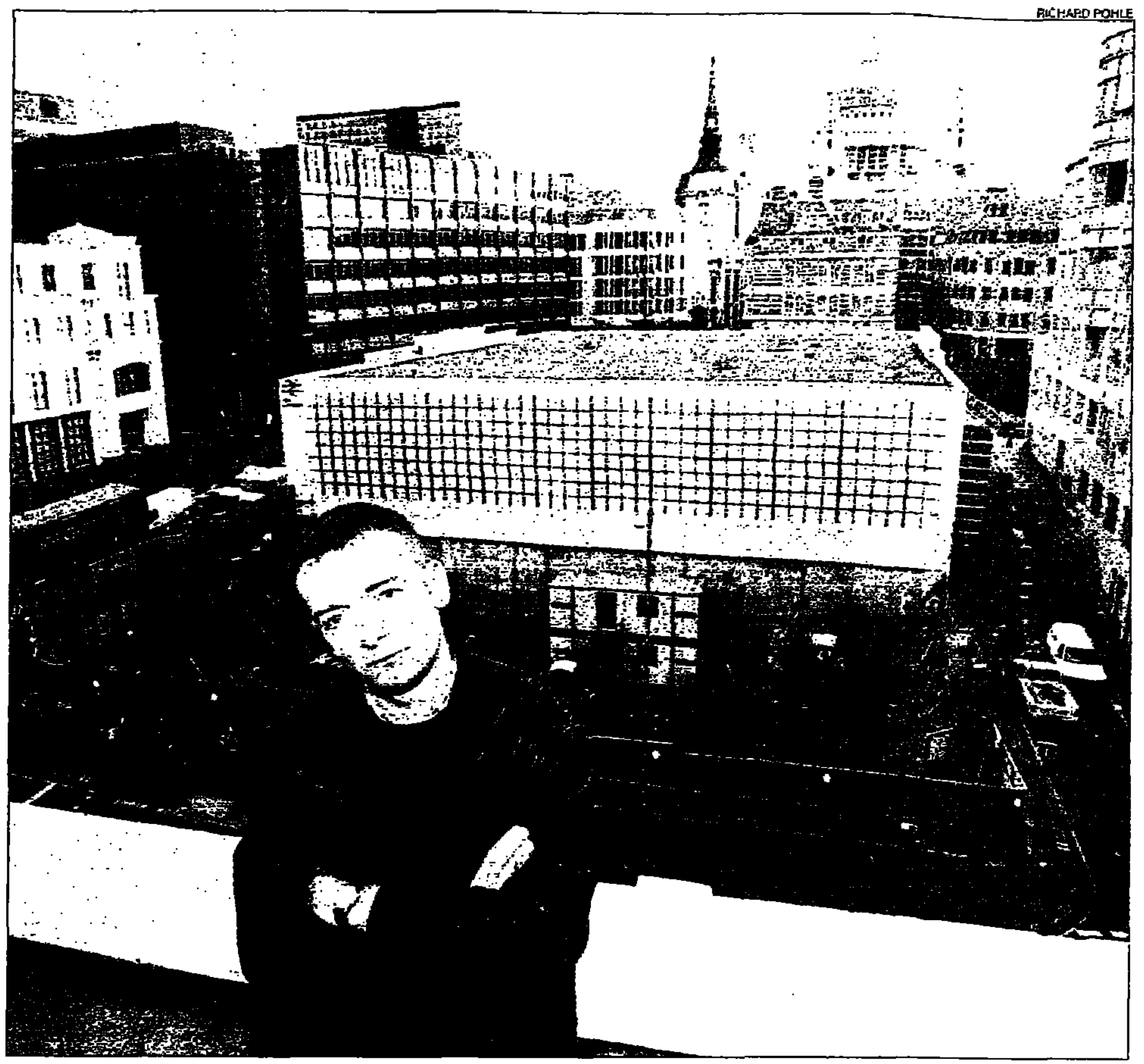
هكذا من الإصل

Builders spoil the view for City slickers

There are disadvantages to living in London's Square Mile — like shopping centres on your doorstep,

Rachel Kelly writes

RICHARD POHLE



Mark Dowd, above, bought his apartment with views of St Paul's. New developments, above left, will soon block them

The penny has finally dropped in the Square Mile. Bankers, barristers and those who grow rich in the City have realised that it is now becoming possible to live there, too.

New schemes abound, but be warned. Those seduced by the prospect of living in the shadow of St Paul's may find that the speed of City development could obscure their view.

Once the area between Old Street in the north and the Thames in the south had only the Barbican for those wishing to don their pyjamas. But London's revival as a world financial centre has led to a huge increase in the number of new flats being built in the area.

The recovery in commercial rents, from a low of around £35 per sq ft seven years ago to around £40 per sq ft today, has meant that older buildings too small for the modern offices currently in great demand are being turned into flats.

Stephen Hurford, a partner at City estate agents Hurford Salvi Carr, says prices for new flats in the City doubled between January 1995 and October 1997. The average two-bedroom flat now costs £275,000.

Barratt Homes has just completed 50 flats at Globe View, a former warehouse on the bank of the Thames between the bridges of Blackfriars and Southwark.

Barclays Bank, through its property arm, has developed five two and three-bedroom flats in former office space above its bank in Fleet Street. Once the haunt of hungry hacks, the Street of Shame is now going "rezzie", as they say in the trade. Within days, Hurford Salvi Carr reported that all five flats, with prices up to £400,000, had been reserved off plan by three barristers and two bankers.

"The pressures of commuting and long working hours have seen many high-flyers keen to relocate nearer their place of work," says Mr Carr.

Myles Bridges, a partner with City agent Farebrother, says: "Of the large volume of units currently nearing completion and coming on to the market, 40 per cent have already been sold."

Living close to work is convenient, but there are other factors to consider — the "shadow effect", for instance.

If small pockets of residential conversions are permitted, then any subsequent developments of commercial premises nearby, with the attendant construction chaos, could lead to a conflict of interests.

Mark Dowd, a producer for BBC television's *Panorama*, discovered this drawback the hard way. Earlier this year he moved into a £145,000 apartment in a new development in a former office building of 17 flats at Bride Court, Ludgate Circus.

He was initially seduced by the prospect of views of St Paul's Cathedral, but later there turned out to be a catch. The site opposite Bride Court had been sold for development, and a large new building would eventually block out these views.

Mr Dowd found out about this development and still decided to buy, but other developments even closer to home have now come to light. At the centre of Bride Court is a small shopping arcade, which has traditionally housed quiet occupants, including a bookshop, cleaners and delicatessen. The mood is set to change, with a pub extension and wine bar expected to be filled with raucous City traders celebrating their bonuses.

Residents have been mollified by planning stipulations that soundproofing will be installed, but their disappointment remains acute.

None were aware of the pub extension, even though the Bride Court developers, Gandy Street Properties, were in negotiation with pub owner Bass last January.

Jonathan Kessel of Gandy Street Properties says: "We made no mention of the pub extension because Bride Court is already in a busy area, and we thought the impact was minimal."

Mr Dowd realises that the root of the problem rests with buyers exchanging contracts often months before the work is completed. More than 80 per cent of Bride Court was sold before completion.

"I exchanged contracts in January, and my solicitor conducted searches in October and November 1996, so it is not surprising no mention was found of the pub extension or wine bar. The quantity of new development in the City means that buyers should conduct careful searches before exchanging contracts."

● *Additional research by Mark Cropper*

SMART MOVES

■ THE Lloyd Webbers cannot decide whether to sell their £15 million Eaton Square home. The central London house went on the market last February, but Savills told recent would-be buyers that the house was off the market. Now it is back on again and Savills has been told to keep mum for fear of making the Lloyd Webbers seem indecisive.

Lord Lloyd Webber

■ THE former home of long-overlooked author John Cowper Powys (1872-1963) is for sale at £425,000 through Knight Frank. The country house, in the village of Montacute, Somerset, was the childhood home of the writer, poet and essayist. The area features in many of his works.

Ruth Rendell

■ RUTH Rendell has sold her Regent's Park home in a private gated mews. The two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment with a 24ft reception room fetched £325,000 through Arlington Residential.

■ TAKI Theodoracopulos, *Sunday Times* columnist, has traded down, moving from a large flat in Cadogan Square, central London, that fetched £1 million, to a smaller flat in the same area.

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The new owners of Lewis Carroll's former family home plan to revive its connection with Alice

Adventures in a new Wonderland

Making alterations to a house is difficult enough when there is only the local planning department, the architect and the builders to contend with. But when David and Berry Baker start work on their new home, The Chestnuts in Guildford, Surrey, they will also have on them the eyes of the whole town and of Lewis Carroll enthusiasts worldwide.

Many local people are still aggrieved that Guildford Borough Council decided not to buy the house when its owners for the past 40 years, Sir Christopher Pinsent and his wife Mary, put it on the market earlier this year. Lewis Carroll (the Rev Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) rented the house as a home for his seven sisters for 30 years from 1868.

He visited them there during his vacations from Oxford, died at the house in 1898 and is buried in a cemetery visible from its upper floors. Fans still flock to the town to see his papers and other relics in the Guildford Museum, and to visit his grave.

The Chestnuts, a Grade II listed, four-storey, six-bedroom Victorian town house, with many of its original features, is a natural site for a dedicated Lewis Carroll museum, but the council could not afford the combination of an asking price of £750,000 and the costs of conversion and annual upkeep. This left the way clear for David Baker, a City solicitor, and his wife Berry, to buy it.

"Properties like this do not come on the market very often," says Mrs Baker, who is on the board of governors at Moon Hall School, Holmbury St Mary, Surrey, a school for dyslexic children where she was once head teacher.

With the help of an architect, Ian Adam-Smith, the Bakers will spend up to a year having The Chestnuts altered before finally moving in with their children, Daniel and Helen. The work should stand the scrutiny of locals, who had hoped for a Lewis Carroll museum, because the Bakers intend to be fastidious about conserving and enhancing the house's historic connection.

FACT FILE

- Annual membership of the Lewis Carroll Society (UK) is £13. Write to Sarah Stanfield, secretary, the Lewis Carroll Society, Acorns, Dargate, near Faversham, Kent ME13 OHG.
- The tape *Twelve Carroll Scholars Read Alice with Jabberwocky in Six Tongues*, is marketed by the Japanese Lewis Carroll Society and Yohan Publications Inc of Tokyo (fax 00 81 3 3204 2582).
- Clarke Gammon, the estate agents which sold The Chestnuts, has a similar property, Castle Hill, Guildford, for sale. Contact Tony Jamieson on 01483 572266.
- Ian Adam-Smith, of The Little House, Frensham Priory, Frensham, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3DP (01252 795080, fax 01252 795090), specialises in the refurbishment and remodelling of fine town and country houses.

"We wouldn't have made an offer for the house had the council been able to afford it," Mrs Baker says. "But we thought that, if it couldn't be a museum, it would be better for it to continue as a family home, which it has been for most of its 136 years.

"It was the house itself that attracted us. It's such a pretty Georgian-style building in red brick with a roof of Welsh slates. The views over the Wye Valley are outstanding, yet we can walk to the high street in minutes and the station is only half a mile away.

"For us, the Lewis Carroll connection is a bonus, but also a responsibility. We are taking it on trust to preserve the house's character and identity while, obviously, wanting to make it comfortable for us to live in. As the Pinsents discovered, if you have an historic family house, you have to find a middle way of preserving it as much as possible, while having the basic amenities that a modern family needs."

ROBIN MAYES

David and Berry Baker bought Lewis Carroll's old home after the local council said it couldn't afford it

Before buying The Chestnuts, Mrs Baker toured the house to see what could be done to preserve existing features and improve it by replacing some of the items that have been removed over the years.

Although the Pinsents kept the house in good order, they did not significantly alter it. "It's a perfectly ordinary house really," says Sir Christopher, a retired lecturer and tutor in painting and drawing at Camberwell School of Art in south London. "We kept a lot of the house's original features, such as picture rails and architraves. Of course, there is not the same paint on the walls as in Lewis Carroll's time, but we did find Victorian hay in the hayloft over the coach house when we converted it to make an artist's studio."

The basement rooms — the cook's parlour, wine cellar, kitchen, scullery, storeroom and fuel store — are still more or less as they were when Lewis Carroll's surviving sister moved out in 1919.

The Baker's top priority will be to repair the roof to make sure it's good for the next 50 years, Mrs Baker says. "We also want to restore the dining room to how it must have been in Lewis Carroll's time. I'm a history graduate and I shall enjoy researching that. No one knows exactly which was Lewis Carroll's bedroom, although it has been speculated that it might be the present kitchenette on the second floor. It will be interesting to see if we find any clues when we are working on the house.

"As to furniture, we've been lucky because, years ago, we acquired all the pieces with which some distant relatives of ours furnished their home in 1879. It's basic Victorian stuff but will look just right here."

HULTON DEUTSCH

Lewis Carroll rented the house for his seven sisters for 30 years

The house's historic plaque

The Bakers hope that the scaffolding will be down by next May, when Guildford holds its Lewis Carroll centenary events.

The Chestnuts is on the itinerary of several guided walks planned for 1998 and will be a centre of attention for Lewis Carroll enthusiasts, with visitors expected from as far afield as America and Japan to mark the hundredth anniversary of the writer's death on January 14, 1898. And here, too, the Bakers seem well qualified to be the new owners of the house, because both speak Japanese, having returned to Britain earlier this year from Tokyo, where Mr Baker ran one of his law firm's branches.

It should not be long after the Bakers move in that they encounter the first Japanese tourist on their doorstep and, like their predecessors, have to explain that The Chestnuts is not open to the public. Unlike their predecessors, however, they will be able to greet the Japanese in their own tongue.

The Japanese connection with the house began about 15 years ago when Sir Christopher was approached, while painting his gate, by a professor of English at Tokyo University, who revealed that he had translated into Japanese Lewis Carroll's *Jabberwocky* ("Twas brillig, and the slithy toves..."), which some of us find difficult enough to translate into English. Suitably impressed, Sir Christopher gave his visitor a tour of the house, and ever since has received monthly copies of the Japanese Lewis Carroll Society newsletter. A recent issue contains an article by him about the history of The Chestnuts.

Last year, Sir Christopher was invited by the society to record a chapter of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* on tape, the sale of which helps to pay for the restoration of the Dodgson graves in Guildford.

The town's Mad Hatter's Tea Party will not be staged at The Chestnuts, however. "We had some lovely tea parties here when our three children were young," Sir Christopher says, "but we didn't make a theme of the Lewis Carroll connection. We just lived in the house. The important thing is, it's a happy house, with no ghosts."

With the Bakers in residence, Lewis Carroll will, perhaps, be more to the fore. "I'll quite likely join the Lewis Carroll Society," Mrs Baker says, "and a friend has already given me a White Rabbit doorstop."

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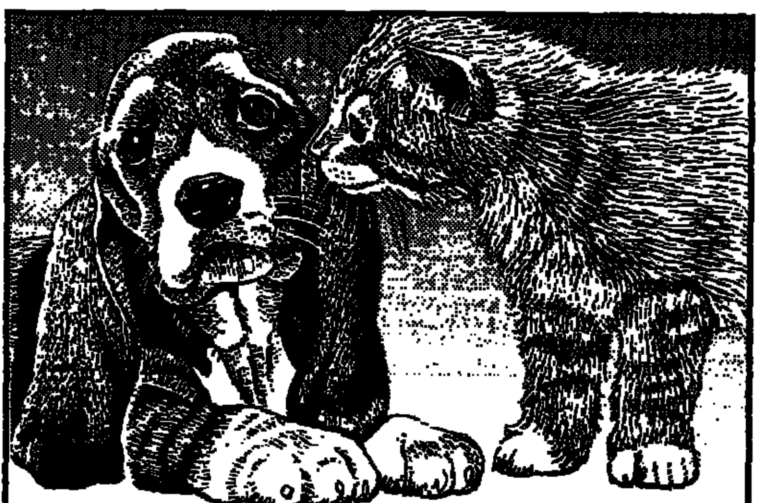

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Who says Santa doesn't call on pets too? Carol Price tracks down the products on every domestic creature's list

Santa claws is coming

ABOVE: For animals with a luvvie streak, BhS (0171-262 3288) stocks a range of Barking Mad dressing-up outfits. Shown here, reindeer antlers, £3

Shakespeare referred to the story that the beasts are granted the power of speech for a spell at midnight on Christmas Eve. The legend is strong in Provence, my mother's childhood home. So our Christmas crib parades the Provençal santons (clay figures) of the village mayor in his tricolour sash, the washerwoman and the moonchild looking out of the loft above the manger. He is unaware of the miracle underneath his feet, and amazed at the crowd approaching a step a day until Epiphany.

And so our household leaves out a saucer of milk and carrots for the reindeer (Disney rather than Marseilles), and the pets have to receive presents.

Marks & Spencer has introduced pet crackers and stockings full of cat chocs and balls that squeak. These are a mistake. Pets are frightened of bangs, and sensible cats and dogs, if that is not an oxymoron, prefer Swiss chocolate to cat-chocs. Baskets are also a mistake: my pets prefer a bed with human feet or a head for comfort.

For cats, the best present comes from Culpeper's herbalists in the shape of a cloth mouse scented with irresistible catnip. Fancy coats are wasted on Haggis and Poppy, and their sibling Jack Russells. These are little all-weather creatures who hate being dressed up, though the children do sometimes try their dolls' clothes on them, with much rending of seams.

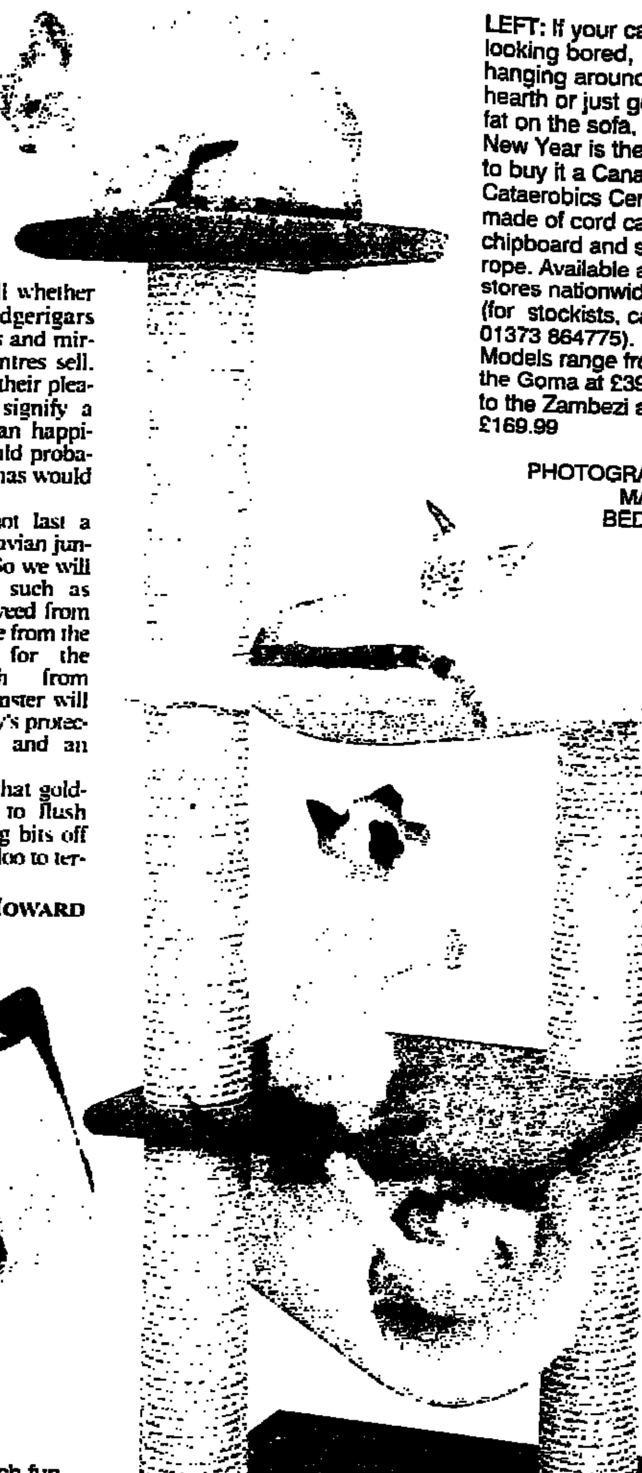
They both need collars instead of my old ties, but a collar is a badge of submission rather than a treat. They also get bored with the plastic bones, so I will get them proper bones from the butcher, if they are still legal, and when carving I will drop more than usual into the pack seething around my feet. The Russells will no doubt manufacture their own presents by chewing up dolls, plastic cars and any Swiss chocolates left within their astonishingly high reach.

It is difficult to tell whether canaries and budgerigars enjoy the millet bells and mirrors that garden centres sell. How can I measure their pleasure? Singing can signify a torchsong rather than happiness. What they would probably enjoy for Christmas would be freedom.

But they would not last a minute in the harsh avian jungle of Notting Hill. So we will get them greenery such as plantains and chickweed from the hedgerows, lettuce from the supermarket, and for the canaries, cuttlefish from the seashore. The hamster will be given a further day's protection from the dogs and an extension to its cage.

Who can fathom what goldfish like? I resolve to flush Jaws, the killer biting bits off the others, down the loo to terrorise the sewers.

Philip Howard



LEFT: If your cat is looking bored, hanging around the hearth or just getting fat on the sofa, New Year is the time to buy it a Canac Cataerobics Centre, made of cord carpet, chipboard and sisal rope. Available at pet stores nationwide (for stockists, call 01373 864775). Models range from the Goma at £39.99 to the Zambezi at £169.99

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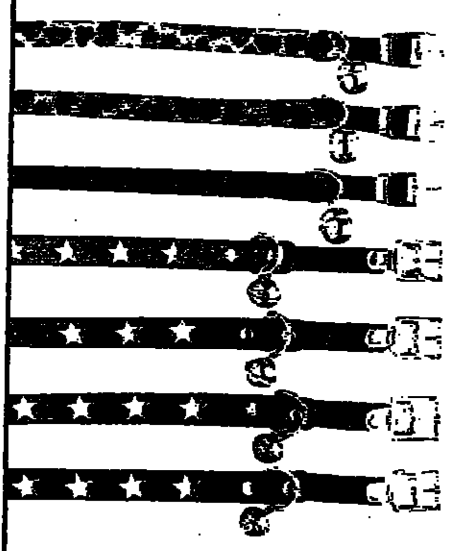
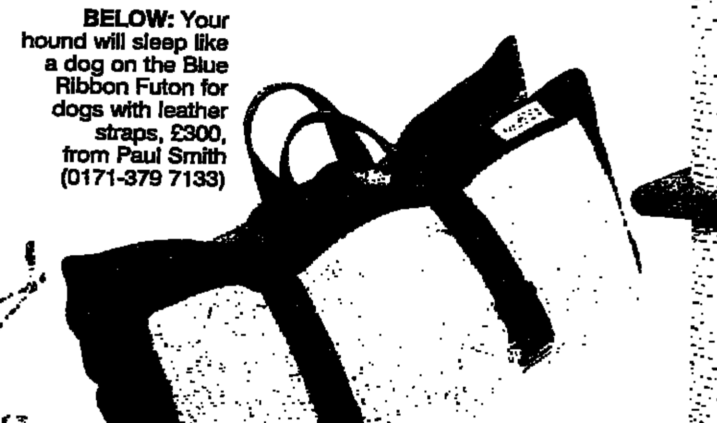


LEFT: Jungle print velour cat collars in white, beige and tan, with safety elastic and bell, £4.95 (plus £1.50 p&p) from Comfy Pet & People Products by mail order, 2-4 Parsonage Street, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon BX5 5NW (01392 881285)



BELOW: Your hound will sleep like a dog on the Blue Ribbon Futon for dogs with leather straps, £300, from Paul Smith (0171-379 7133)

Greet doggy guests in style with this refillable dog biscuit wreath, £3, from BhS (0171-262 3288)

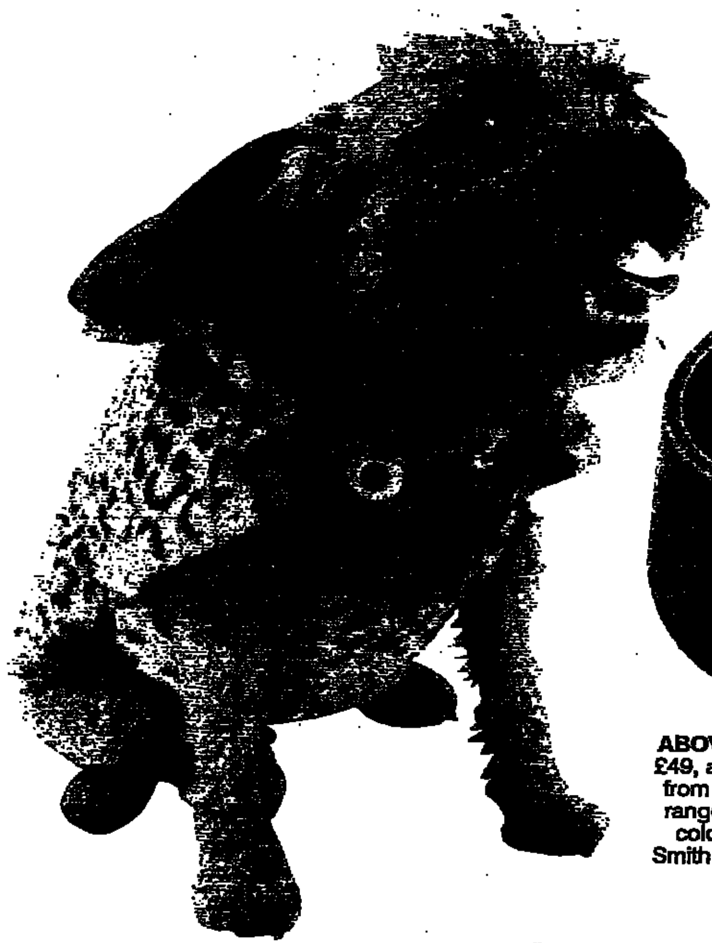
ABOVE: If every creature in your household wants to join in the pantomime season, BhS should be your first stop. It has a range of outfits, including a dinner suit, and "Superpet", princess and Santa costumes, from £2.50 to £5

LEFT: It can't be much fun being a hamster at Christmas, being locked in a cage while everyone else stuffs themselves with nuts. However, some cheek-stuffers can console themselves with a luxurious Habitrail Hamster Home, from £40 to £43 (stockists, 01977 556622)

RIGHT: Before reprimanding that hound, consider maybe he just senses negative "chi" or energy. For just £5.99, Feng Shui for Dogs (Ebury Press, 0171-973 9690) could put his Yin and Yang straight

LEFT: Fake cigar treats for dogs, individually wrapped for true after-dinner smoking pleasure. Made with parsley, garlic and vitamin E, £2.50 each, from Harrods (0171-730 1234)

LEFT: Let your pet feed off silver — this chrome bowl, with crown and star motifs, is from Harrods (0171-730 1234) and Dickins & Jones (0171-734 7070)



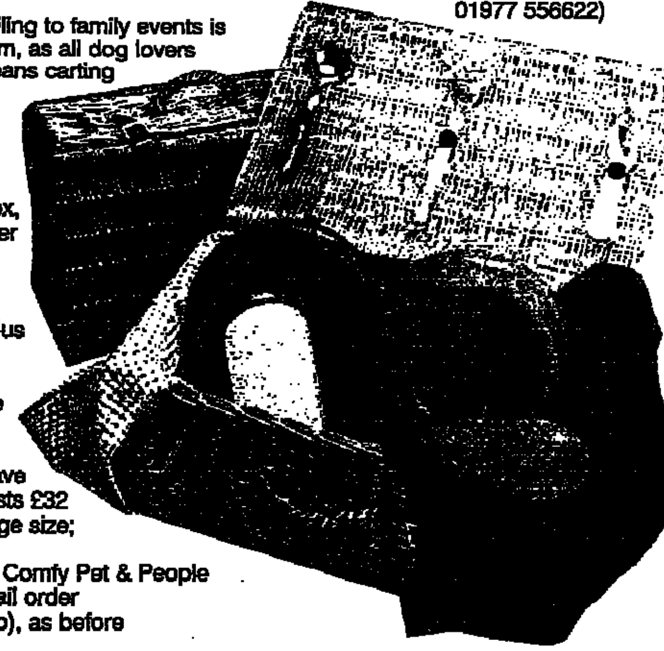
ABOVE: Don't let him get cold under the collar; treat him to a snug-as-a-rug fake leopardskin jacket, £65, Fenwick (0171-629 9161)

ABOVE: Bowl, £35 to £49, and rubber bone, from £15 to £20, in a range of fashionable colours, from Paul Smith (0171-379 7133)

ABOVE: How much excitement can a hamster stand? This toy, Habitrail Hampster Dragster car, in red and yellow plastic, is £12.99, from pet stores nationwide (stockists: 01977 556622)

ABOVE: Who says fake fur is only for female fashion victims? Harrods (0171-730 1234) stocks a range of wild cat and dog beds in leopard, tiger and zebra prints. They are foam-filled and totally washable, and cost from £19.50 to £30.50 depending on size

ABOVE: There is nothing nicer than eating leftover turkey and giblets off good china, as Scots of Stow have realised. The company has created ceramic hand-painted bowls for animals, in blue and white for dogs (£12.95), and terracotta and white for cats (£6.95). Stockists: 0990 449449.



RIGHT: Travelling to family events is often a problem, as all dog lovers know, as it means carting around pooch essentials. To overcome this crisis, try the Dog Weekender Box, a willow hamper that holds plastic bowls, can lids and water bottle, plus towels. It also has additional room for all the other doggy knick-knacks mutts won't leave behind and costs £32 for hand-luggage size; £36 for the full suitcase. From Comfy Pet & People Products by mail order (plus £4.95 p&p), as before

ABOVE: If nothing but the best is good enough for you and your pet, Paul Smith, (0171-379 7133) stocks matching man-and-his-dog jumpers, from £59-£95

A VET WRITES

Q **For the past few years I've sent a Christmas cheque to two animal charities, different ones each year, but there are so many good causes that I can't decide for 1997. Any suggestions?**

A The Blue Cross celebrated its centenary in May this year, so you could give a combined birthday and Christmas present. It is a "hands-on" charity and treats sick and injured animals at its hospitals, provides horse ambulances, and rescues and rehomes unwanted pets of all types. The Blue Cross is at Shilton Road, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4PF.

Alternatively, you might like to consider the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Trust Fund, which gives grants and scholarships for research into animal diseases and funds specialised equipment used in veterinary schools and clinics. It also finances a professional library, available to every vet in the country (and overseas) who needs information about new techniques or animal diseases, fresh discoveries or rare incidences which, one day, could help your vet to help your pet. The address is: RCVS Trust Fund, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF.

Q **Last summer we lost two rabbits with bloat after giving them lettuces which had gone to seed. I thought I was giving them a treat, but fellow rabbit keepers tell me I should have known better. Wild rabbits get into gardens and eat lettuce without getting bloat. Are domesticated ones different? Was it my fault? Is lettuce dangerous?**

A Lettuce is not dangerous in itself, but too much, too suddenly can be fatal, so in that sense you were to blame. Herbivorous animals digest green food only after it has been changed by fermentation. Yeasts and bacteria convert cellulose and starch in green matter into sugars which can be digested in other parts of the intestine. Cows and sheep have a huge first stomach (60 gallons in a large cow) which acts as a fermentation chamber.

Horses and rabbits have a greatly enlarged colon and caecum towards the hind end of the digestive tract which serve the same purpose. If these animals eat large amounts of lush, highly fermentable food, fermentation goes into overdrive and huge quantities of gas are formed.

This can't get away by normal belching and the animal blows up. The rabbit's colon or the cow's stomach is drum tight with gas. This stops normal breathing and circulation and, if it's not relieved very quickly, is fatal. Wild rabbits don't get the chance to gorge on lush food. Their diet changes slowly with the seasons — so their fermentation process adjusts itself to cope with gradual change.

Q **Our four gerbils live on a seed mixture from the pet shop and a few bits of green food and carrots. They search for the sunflower seeds and always eat them first, often leaving the crushed oats and maize, which we throw out for the birds. Would it matter if we just gave them sunflowers — and their vegetables?**

A A diet of sunflower seeds and a few veg could lead to obesity — sunflower seeds have a high fat content — and calcium deficiency since the calcium content is very low. This might produce bone and joint problems. Harden your heart. Apply the granny principle — no pudding until you've finished all the cabbage. Alternatively, buy compound pelleted foods made for pet rats and mice. This would be better still.

James Allcock

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

ADOPT ME

Lucky: good-natured

LUCKY is a 13-year-old tan-coloured mongrel who has been at the RSPCA centre for eight months. Although she is hard of hearing, she is healthy and good-natured and would suit a quiet home with a loving owner.

If you are interested in adopting Lucky, contact the RSPCA Leybourne Animal Centre, West Malling, Kent (01732 847237).

Set for Lambeth walk

The bets are already piling on for the Bishop of London to replace Dr Carey, says **Damian Thompson**

MARTIN BEDDALL

From Sainsbury's to Lambeth? Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London (left), with Canon John Oates of St Bride's, Fleet Street

Who is going to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury? The question cannot be put off for much longer: George Carey has said that he will not serve out his full term, and there is a theory — officially denied, but gaining currency — that next year's *Lambeth conference* will be his swansong.

When the last conference met, in 1988, the world's Anglican bishop's were fascinated by the question of who was going to succeed Robert Runcie though, in the absence of an obvious successor, all sorts of bizarre rumours did the rounds.

This time, the bets are piling on to just one runner: the *Right Rev Richard Chartres*, the Bishop of London.

And why not? The self-effacing Archbishop of York, David Hope, is believed to shudder at the thought of further promotion; the Bishops of Durham (Michael Turnbull) and Oxford (Richard Harries) are not thought to be in the running. Which leaves the Church's third most senior prelate, the Bishop of *London, as the obvious choice.*

But hang on. We are talking here about a bishop who *conforms to familiar episcopal* stereotypes. The lofty and deep-voiced Chartres is neither an ambitious and emollient liberal placeman, like most of the current bench, nor an earnest evangelical, like Carey: he is not even a crypto-*Papist Anglo-Catholic.*

What he is, however, is the most eccentric — and perhaps *the most naturally gifted* — cleric to reach high office in the C of E for decades.

Two years ago, at the age of 48, Chartres was plucked from the backwater of Stepney to take on the whole of London, much to the astonishment of one or two diocesan bishops who fancied the job. (There was acute disappointment in Oxford.) But the real surprise, say friends, is not that Chartres got *London but that he* managed to get himself ordained in the first place. In *fact, the first time round, he* didn't.

Why? Because he is a passionate reactionary, and when he was at theological college in the late Sixties that was an even graver Anglican sin than it is now.

After Cambridge, young Chartres joined an ordination course but found himself so marginalised by his support for the Book of Common *Prayer that he went to work as* a warehouse clerk for Sainsbury's.

After a second course. Chartres seemed to be no happier: he is described in Humphrey *Carpenter's* biography of Lord Runcie as being so frightened at the prospect of being ordained that he ran away to his bedroom, teeth chattering with nerves. But Runcie said: "Well, I'm going to go ahead and ordain him. I believe that the grace of Holy Orders will *work on him.*"

And it did: so dramatically that when Runcie became *Archbishop of Canterbury* he made him his chaplain.

Marriage also helped. Caroline Chartres is the daughter of Alan McLintock, the influential merchant banker who chairs the Church's central board of finance; she is pretty *and charming,* as are their four young children. "Having *such* a presentable family has done much to render Richard's eccentricities acceptable," a friend says.

> 'The most gifted cleric to reach high office for decades'

Yet Chartres remains the most unusual figure in the Church. This is apparent as soon as he steps on to the sanctuary of St Paul's, where he conducts himself like a Russian patriarch, crossing *himself fastidiously* in the Orthodox fashion from right to left instead of left to right. (His love of Orthodoxy is said to extend to distaste for Roman Catholicism. It may also account for his beard.)

At other times, Chartres models himself on the great 19th-century *High* Church divines. He wears frock coats, which *make him* look much like Archdeacon Grantly. He *preaches,* splendidly, in a grand manner and stentorian voice which could not be further removed from the *Thought for the Day* unctuousness of his fellow bishops. His handwriting is Victorian copperplate. He dislikes "office wallahs", and refers in his writings to "Mr Gladstone" as if the Grand Old Man were still alive.

He does *not* ordain women, though he allows others to do so on his behalf. He uses the Prayer Book whenever possible. Yet his politics are nothing like as reactionary as his other beliefs might imply. He has campaigned long and hard against racism. He is attracted to the philosophy of communitarianism and believes that the Church must lead a spiritual revival in the *inner cities.*

Cranmer and com*munity: does this* particular mixture sound oddly famil*iar? Of course it does. Not for* nothing did the Prince of Wales ask Chartres, his Cambridge contemporary, to confirm Prince William, appearing to snub Dr Carey in the process.

In the Bishop of London, Charles has found a priest after his own heart (which may explain why he seemed to cross himself in the Orthodox manner at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales).

The rest of the Royal Family, too, finds Chartres far more congenial than his colleagues — and certainly more so than Dr Carey, whose social awkwardness embarrasses them.

Royal approval is Chartres's trump card: it still matters enormously to the circle of deferential church officials who decide appointments.

Then there is the Blair factor. The Prime Minister is unimpressed by the bland *managerial style favoured by* so many leading bishops, and may well use his influence to *install someone* unusual and forceful at Lambeth.

As a result, a wonderfully ironic prospect looms: that the Church of England, after decades of attempts to modernise itself, will be led into the 21st century by a bishop who has never really reconciled himself to the passing of the 19th.

Bishop rises heavenwards

Ruth Gledhill witnesses an up-lifting ceremony with the aid of a crane

THE BISHOP of Winchester, purple cassock billowing in the wind, ascended into the heavens to beseech God's blessing on St Luke, the patron saint of doctors, butchers, painters and notaries. Doubtless the the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt would have preferred to keep his feet on the ground. But the newly carved stone representation of St Paul's "beloved" physician, the celibate author of the third gospel, was resting in an inaccessible niche 100ft above the ground at Epsom College, Surrey.

The bishop and the college headmaster, Anthony Beadles, had no choice but *to rise into the air* with the help of a huge crane for the blessing ceremony. Dozens of boys and girls watched their perilous ascent with something approaching speculative anticipation.

The statue of St Luke symbolises the college's origins as the royal medical benevolent school for orphan sons of doctors. More than 20 former pupils still go into medicine each year, a record unequalled by any other school.

Face to face with the statue, which stands over the main school entrance, replacing an earlier model which had become worn and unsafe, the bishop pronounced his benediction. He prayed that, as we looked on carved figures of the saints, we might recall their holy example and follow their pattern of holiness. "We ask you to bless and hallow this statue fashioned in honour and memory of blesed Luke, your Apostle and patron saint," he said, twice making the sign of the cross.

To everyone's relief, the bishop and headmaster managed to ascend and descend safely, watched by the college chaplain, the Rev Brian Roberts; the vicar of Epsom, the Rev David Smethurst; local dignitaries and the college council.

Epsom College, in an idyllic 80-acre setting near the racecourse on the Downs, has 650 pupils, most boarding full-time or weekly from the age of 13. The chapel is dedicated to St Luke, and contains a wood carving by Jan Smith, who worked with Epstein.

Later, speaking at the *post-dedication* celebrations, George Pincus, the vice-chairman of the college *council, referred to the pres*sure to achieve good exam results, to succeed in terms of league tables, to compete in every sphere of life. "That's why I welcome the dedication of our statue of St Luke," he said. "It is more than a physical act; it gives us all time to pause and reflect on the true values that we are all seeking in education."

He thanked the housemistresses, masters, prefects and head of school, Giles Tongue, for helping to keep the college at the top of the "unseen" league table — "the one that really matters and is represented by St Luke and our motto, *Deo non fortuna*".

● *Epsom College, Surrey KT17 4JQ (01372 821004).*

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HEADMASTER: Anthony Beadles

VISITOR: The Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt Bishop of Winchester

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MUSIC: College choir and Madrigal Society sang sweetly ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Hugely dramatic ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Roast lamb ★★★★

ANDRE CAMARA

The Bishop of Winchester aloft with St Luke

The word that should haunt us at Christmas

Credo

DOUG GAY

Preachers and journalists have this in common: it is their business, week by week, to try to find the right words. It is their job to put the world into words and to put words into the world. Readers and congregations expect it from them. The season of Advent brings the challenge and the dilemmas of finding words for Christmas, of choosing *some and rejecting others.*

Some of us in the churches have spent a lot of time complaining about *the way the world celebrates Christ*mas. Christmas provokes words of outrage — from complaints about Santa (which is, some assure us, an anagram of Satan) and mistletoe (a pagan leftover) to diatribes against overindulgence and materialism. Granted the Church needs to speak words of outrage or it would not be the Church of the outraged and outrageous Jesus Christ. But people are bored with the Church complaining about Christmas: there's a kind of peevishness about a lot of it — perhaps even a repressed envy of other people having a better time than we churchfolk have been having.

If the Church can stop looking over its shoulder at what other people are or are *not doing, it could find the* self-confidence of a faith which says: "We are celebrating a Christian festival, we know how to do it and we're good at it". One Advent choice might be to give the words of outrage time out and take up words of confidence.

Christmas has also prompted the Church to reach for defensive words and engage in fighting talk. In the modern age, Christians have been angst-ridden about how to defend the faith against rationalist attacks and the steamroller of scientific reason.

The Festival of the Nativity has been a source of some embarrassment to the Church: virgins and post-menopausal women get pregnant, angels turn up right, left and centre, wise men follow stars from the East, the sky God turns into the earth God. But that was then. In our post-modern age, being honest to God no longer provokes the anxious *rush to demythologise or* defend the stories, because these days the old bullets are simply bouncing off. Science and "modern rationality" are on trial themselves and can't make the old charges against Christianity stick. The nativity stories have got out of jail free, passed Go again and started running around with money to spend. As Paul said, the word of God is not in chains. If so, we can afford to set aside fighting talk, decommission offensive or defensive words and take up the kind of words needed, not to engage an argument but to tell a story. That shift matters also, because the Church on the defensive is always tempted to reach for compromise words; words which smooth the roughness and empty out the mystery. But since the earliest days of the Church, Christmas has been a poetry-producing event. If the story crystallises at all, it crystallises *into paradox, into defiant words in* glorious tension with one another: the image of the invisible, the body of *the untouchable God,* the child who is truly God and truly human. In these words of creeds and carols, in the beautiful and outrageous poetry of orthodoxy, we find words to be sung and savoured and believed.

In the end though, when all our choices about words have been made, and columns been written and sermons preached, there is one great Christmas word left to haunt our words and mock them and turn them into lies. It is the word which questions who we speak for, where we speak from and the lengths that we will go to in order to mean what we say. The word is flesh.

● *Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Churches, East London.*

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Church services for tomorrow

Third Sunday of Advent

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Naylor in G, The Archdeacon; 3.15 Ch E & Litany. Wood in C minor.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9.45* Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch Euch, Sumsion in F; 3.15 Ch E; 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch; 3.30 Carols for Hospice.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Darke in F; 4 Ch E; 6.30 Carol Concert.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Canon Galilee; 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, Canon N Hall; 3.30 E, Kelway in A minor.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Bristol Mass (Latham), Canon *P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E, Stanford in G.*

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Ridout in F; 3.15 E, Moore in E; 6.30 Sermon & Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 Popular Carol Service.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; *9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M, Jackson in G; 6 Ch* E, Canon B Thompson.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn).

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Hosanna (Gibbons), The Precentor; 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Collegium Regale (Howells).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Missa venatorum (Lassus), Canon Peirce; 6 E.

CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 7 Ch E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch; 2.30 Anglo/German Carol Service; *5 Ch E, Holman in F minor.*

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch; 2.30 Masons Carol Service; 6 Ch E.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 HC, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), Canon D Brown; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for 3 voices (Byrd); 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.15 M, Canon D Ison; 3 E, *Harwood in A flat;* 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Canon N Chatfield; 12.15 HC; 3 E.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 M, Sumsion in D; 3.30 E, Wood in F, Canon B Chave.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, On Russian Themes (Hutchings); 4 Ch E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Rev A Daffern; 3.30 E, Murrill in E.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC; 3.45 EP; 7.30 BBC Radio Carol Service.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch; 3 Blessing of the crib; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch; 12.15 HC; 3.30 E, Gray in F minor; 6.30 E.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon P Strange; 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 M; 6.30 Ch E, Stewart in C.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.15 C, Darke in F; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 E; 7 Norwich School Carol Service.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, The Dean; 3.30 E, Walmisley in D minor.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Rev J Grindell; 6.30 E, *Collegium Regale (Howells).*

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Canon J Armson; 3.15 E, Salisbury Service (Lloyd).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 M, Jackson in G; 3 Ch E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 *MP; 10.30 S Euch, 2.30 Carols; 6.30 E &* Sermon. Second Service (Gibbons).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 3 Ch E, Gloucester Service (Howells).

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch; 3.15 E, Walmisley in D minor; 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Jackson in G; 6 E.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9.15* C, Canon R Gage; 11 Solemn Euch, Sumsion in G, Canon R Capper; 4 E.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd); 11.30 M; 3 E.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Euch, Darke in F; 3 E; 5.45 Organ Recital, Martin Baker; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 *Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass; 12 Mass;* 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Sol V; 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Stanford in C; 11.15 S Euch; 3.30 E.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch; 11.30 M; 4 E, Second Service (Gibbons); 7 St Michael-le-Belfrey church Carol Service.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Herdfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 Solemn Euch, Messe Basse (Fauré); 6.30 E.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, Rev K Goulstone.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch M, Sumsion in B flat; 6 Ch E, Walmisley in D minor.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Canon M Mingins; 11.45 HC; 3.30 Ch E, St Paul's Service (Howells).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass, Rorate Coeli (Haydn), Fr G F Bradley; 6 LM.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC; 11.30 MS, Laetentur coeli (Byrd); 6 Choir; 8 ES.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 ES.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Cuthbert; 3.30 Ch E, Bairstow in G; 6.30 Sung Compline.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 M; 3.15 Carols for all.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Canon M Saward; 3.15 E, Stanford in B flat.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: *10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan* and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Mass in B flat (Schubert); 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8 C; 9.30 Family Carol Service; 11.30 MP; 6.30 Carol Service.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 MS.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Mr D Royce.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 MS; 6.30 ES, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM; 12.30 LM; 4.15, 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; *11 Christingle Service,* Rev N Lee; 5, 7.30 Carol Service.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Schubert *in B flat; 12.30 Mass;* 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP with Children's Nativity Play; 6.30 Christmas Story Musical.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), *Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev Dr H* Hoffmann; 7 Ch Vespers.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, The Rector; 6.30 E, Second Service (Byrd).

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch; 6.30 Ch E, Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols'.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: *11 Ch* Euch, Rev D Mackenzie; 3 RAF Benevolent Fund Carol Service.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11 Rev D P Bush; 6.30 Rev J H McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 Sung Mass, Mariazellermesse (Haydn).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Viadana).

ST JAMES'S, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Tempore (Haydn); 6 Ch E.

ST JAMES'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev S Cathie; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Family Service, Them & Variations (Andriessen); 6.30 HC, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: *8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ave* Maria (Parsons); 6.30 E.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Short Service (Batten).

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa Bell' Amfitrit altera (Lassus).

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; *11.30 Visitors Service;* 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E, Fr M Fuller.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM; 6 Carol Service & Solemn Benediction; 7 LM.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd); 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Rev T Clark.

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Rev W Gulliford.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; *10 Family* Euch; 11 S Euch, Fr A R Chidwick.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Short Service (Gibbons).

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; *11.15 Carol Service,* Rev P Hunt.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Stanford in B flat; 12.30 HC.

QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; *10.45* M & Sermon; 11.45 S Euch; 5.15 E.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 Carol Service; 3 Children's Carol Service.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Lessons & Carols; 12 HC; 6 Carols, Band of the Coldstream Guards

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Stanford in F, Ven S Golding.

هكذا من الأصل

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES AND COURSES

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Winter Walking: Circle Dances. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Burlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782 372105). Price £68, inclusive.

Veneering: Oil Painting for Beginners. At the West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). Prices £150 residential, £97 non-residential.

Brush Up Your Oil Painting Techniques: Calligraphy. At the Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancs (01772 784661). Price £75, inclusive of instruction and full-board.

Christmas Feast Weekend. Stay in the only thatched youth hostel in Britain and take part in walks, sledging and a festive meal. Outback UK, Badby, Northants (01327 704115). Price £45 inclusive.

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A Practical Opera Weekend on *Eugene Onegin*. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Cambridge (01954 210636). Price £117, inclusive.

Alfred the Great. Times of Feast. Times of Famine. At the University of Manchester (0161-275 3275). Price £55.

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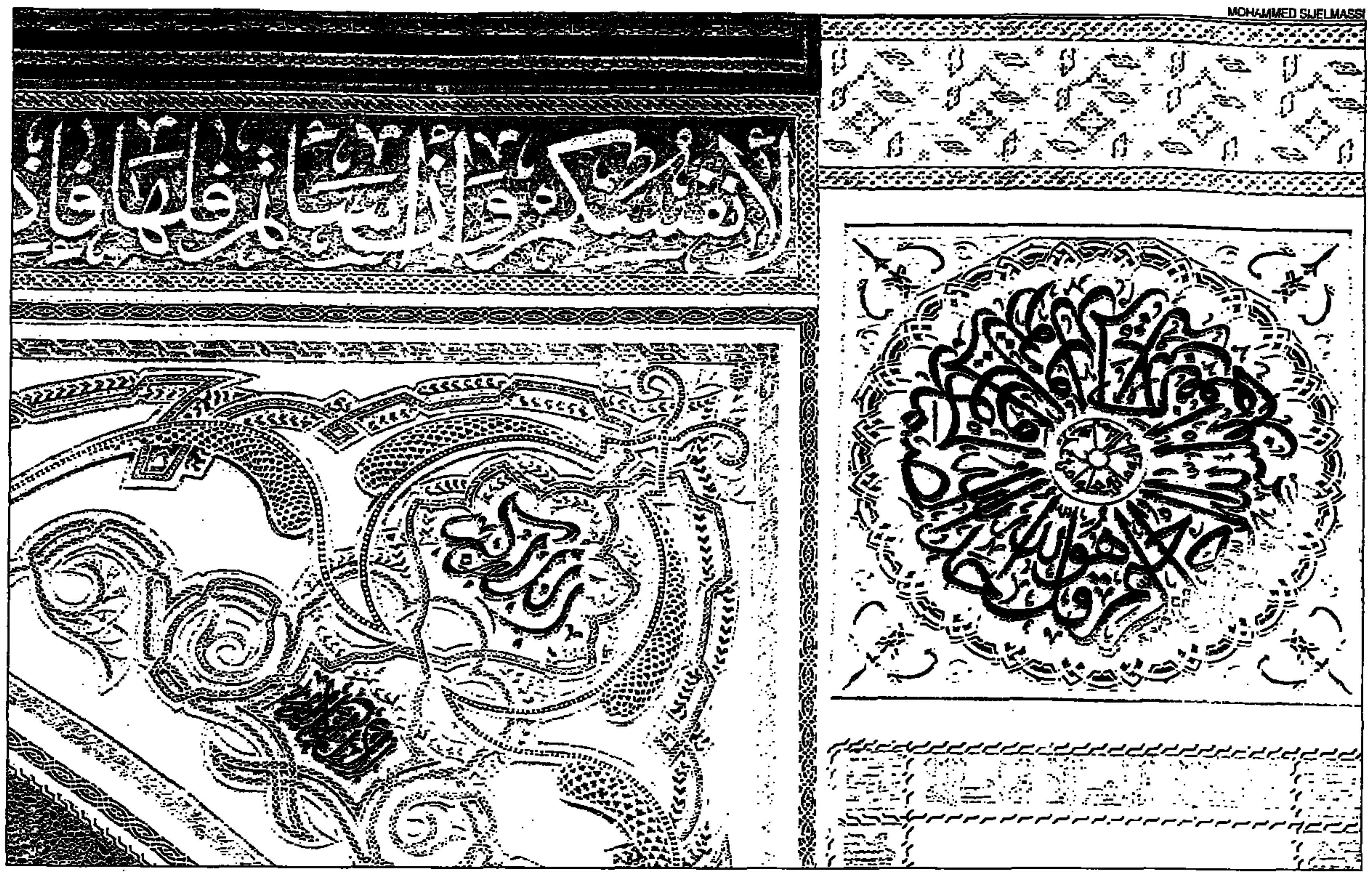


Inside the mosque of Hassan II in Casablanca, Morocco. Make a resolution to study the art and architecture of the Islamic world at the University of Cambridge in the new year

CHRISTMAS BREAKS

Skiing Workshops and Practice. Get ready for the ski-slopes in January with a day at the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Southampton (01703 892077). Price £45 per day, including lunch and equipment.

Fell Walking in the Lake District. With Mountain Goat and Countrywide Holidays (0161-488 7112). From Grasmere to the more remote fells. Prices from £133 per head, accommodation and transport included.

Stuff the Turkey Walking Breaks. Get away from it all with a break in Staffordshire with The Old Furnace Walking Holidays of Greendale (01538 70331). Two-day breaks from £75, three days from £110, five days including Christmas from £250.

Explore the Smuggler's Paths of Exmoor and the Lorna Doone Country. Walking breaks over Christmas at the Rising Sun Hotel, Lynmouth (01598 753223). Price £375 for three nights, including Christmas dinner.

Christmas Activity Breaks in Wales. White-water rafting, indoor go-karting, mountain biking and guided walks in the Elan and Wye valleys and the Radnor hills with Acorn Activities (01432 830083) at Llangollen and Llandrindod Wells. Prices from £200 to £375 for three nights.

The William the Conqueror Walk. Clear away the Christmas blues with this two to three-day, 31-mile walk in Sussex from Pevensey to Rye via Battle, following the path of William the Conqueror in 1066. A leaflet with a list of hotels and guest houses near the path is available free from Tourist Information Centres in Battle (01424 773721) and Rye (01797 226696).

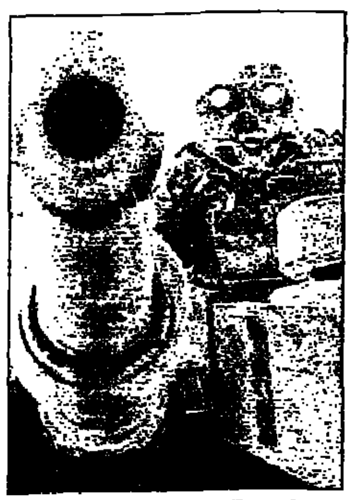
National Trust Christmas Walks. The National Trust is again offering a programme of guided Christmas walks from more than 50 of its properties in all parts of the country. Some walks are free, others range from £2 to £4.50, including refreshments. Details from local NT Offices or from the NT office in London (0171-222 9251).

Winter Birdwatching. On Strangford Lough, Co Down. Accommodation in National Trust properties on the Castle Ward estate costs from £166 in January to £365 over Christmas and New Year. Full details from the National Trust Cottage bookings (01225 791199).

Quad Biking, Tank Driving, Dune Buggy Driving. Available on a 500-acre estate on Royal Deeside. Prices from £70 a day. Christmas gift vouchers available. Full details from Tartan Collection Activities (0133-988 3500).

NEW YEAR BREAKS

Guided New Year Walks from the Rothay Garden Hotel, Grasmere, Cumbria (01539 435334). Daily weather forecasts and a choice of well-chosen routes to a number of the Grasmere and Windermere fells. Prices from £225, all-inclusive.



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Multi-Activity Breaks. Archery, quad biking, clay pigeon shooting and go-karting available from The Haycock, Wansford, Peterborough, Cambs (01780 782223). Prices from £110 for two nights, activities by arrangement.

Fitness Break at Nutfield Priory, Redhill, Surrey (01737 822066). Detoxing, gymnasium, swimming pool, sauna and steam room, exercise and aerobic studio. Prices, half-board, from £60 a night, throughout January.

Welsh Border Breaks. Patchwork and rugmaking, birdwatching, china mending, drawing, painting and gardening skills. Just a few of the activities available on the Welsh Marches with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083).

Organic Gardening, Herb Gardens, Food as Medicine: Art and Medieval History: Aromatherapy: Hereford and Gloucestershire Churches: Walking in the Wye Valley. A selection of the courses available at Courtfield Manor, Goodrich, Herefordshire (01594 861435). Prices from £85 to £100.

Egyptology. A two-day course on the wonders of ancient Egypt at the Burton Manor College, South Wirral (0151-336 5172). Price £98 inclusive.

The Paston Letters: Writers' Venice: The Art and Architecture of the Islamic World. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Cambridge (01954 210636) from January 2-4. Price per course £120 inclusive.

Birds in Winter: Looking and Seeing Paintings. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Burlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105) from January 2-4. Prices £70, all-inclusive.

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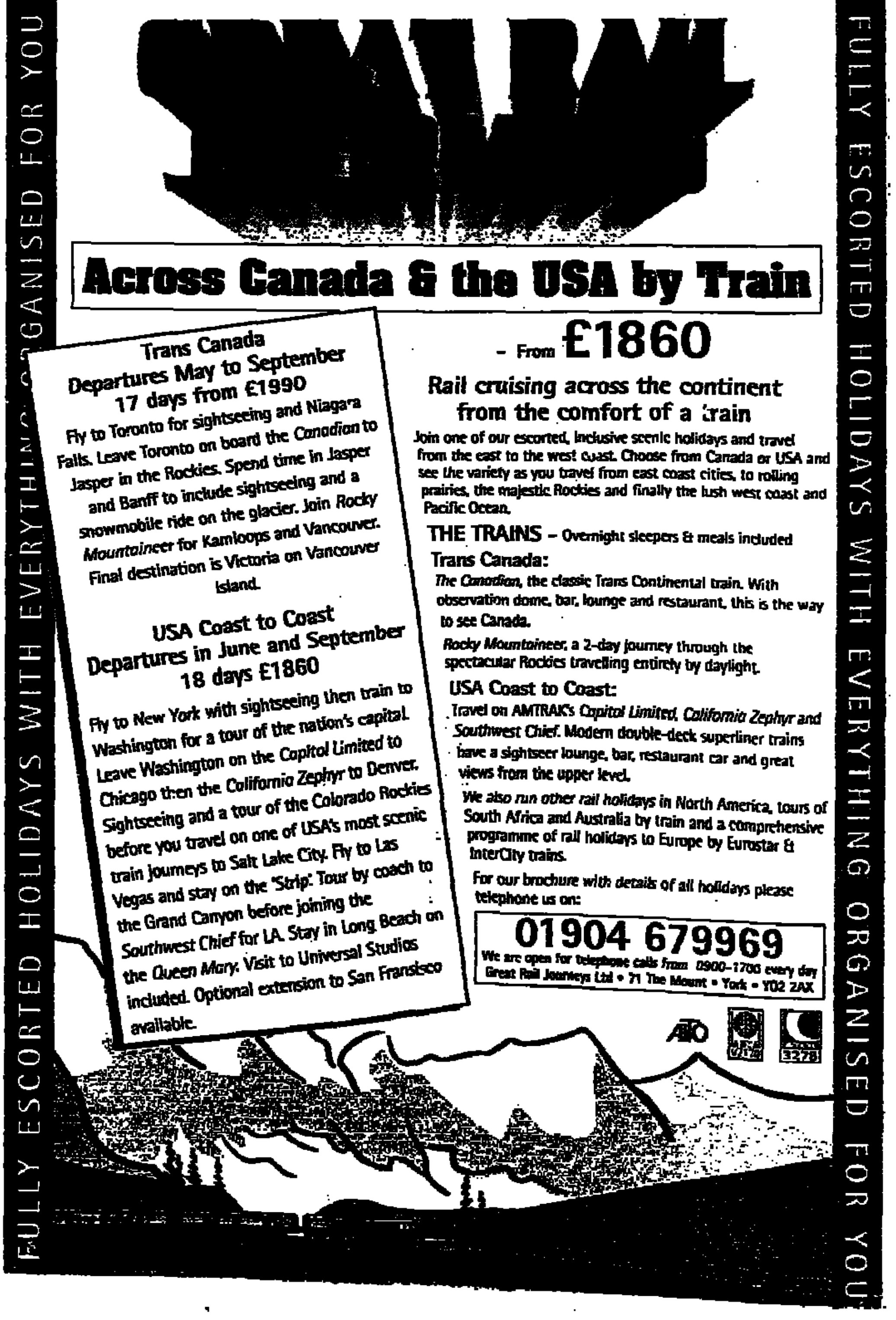

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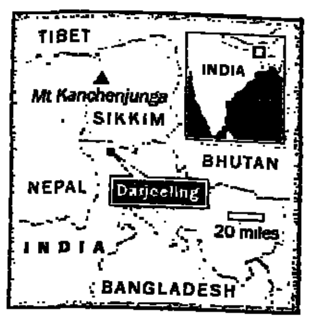
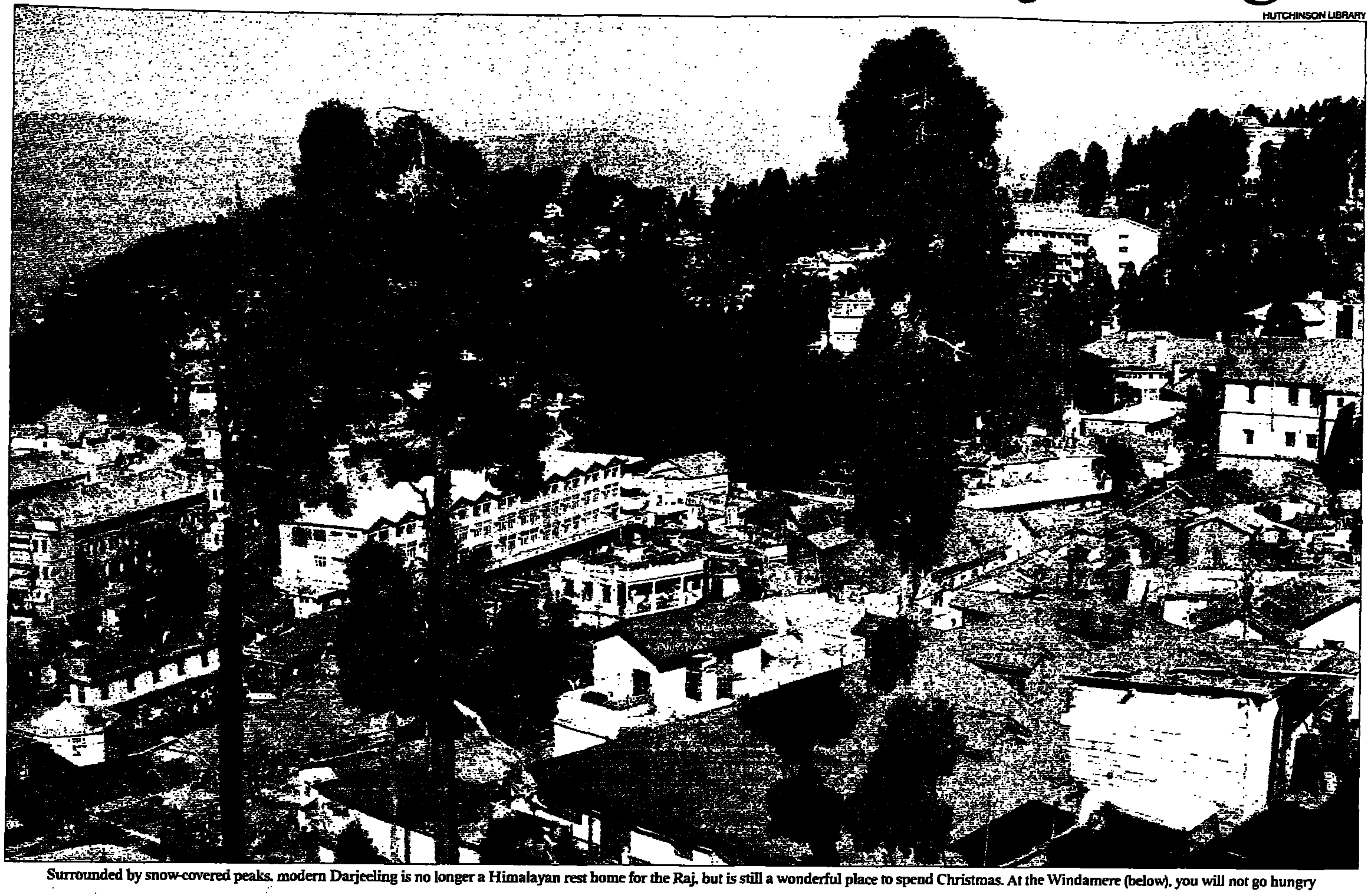
It was Christmas Eve in Darjeeling



Some old Raj traditions live on in the former hill station, says **Stephen McClarence**



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Surrounded by snow-covered peaks, modern Darjeeling is no longer a Himalayan rest home for the Raj, but is still a wonderful place to spend Christmas. At the Windamere (below), you will not go hungry

The bad news was that Santa was out of town. The receptionists told the waiters, the waiters told the housemaids and they all shook their heads. A tradition was being broken — and the Windamere Hotel, up its own little Memory Lane in Darjeeling, is a great place for traditions.

For the past 30 Christmases, Teddy Young, the town's last British tea planter, had played Santa. Each Christmas night, he downed a couple of G&Ts, stuck cotton wool whiskers around his chin and dispensed festive cheer to hotel guests. But not this year. On leave. No one knew where.

Teddy Young is a genial bachelor in his sixties. His chums went back 40 years ago to Home Counties lives without servants. He stayed on, and from his bungalow on the Tum Sung Tea Estate he has watched Darjeeling gradually shrug off the air of a fading British hill station, a Himalayan rest home for the Raj.

Indian traders have swarmed up from the plains, full of business acumen, and swept away the British cobwebs. Hardly anyone remembers the days when Mr Wrangham-Hardy and Mr Dampier-Child were secretaries of the Planters' Club and took snifters under pig-sticking prints.

Hardly anyone — except Mrs Tenduf-la, with her long Tibetan dress and her shrewdly twinkling Tibetan eyes. Now 92, she has run the Windamere since the 1920s — and has preserved it in aspic. In a world of en suite bathrooms and mini-bars, it is studiously, almost self-consciously, quaint. Built as a Victorian boarding house called Ada Villa, it suggests a hunting lodge in the Scottish Highlands. Coal fires are made up at sunset and the flames flicker on the ceiling.

There are clanking pull-chain toilets, hot-water bottles, no telephones, certainly no televisions and 40-watt light bulbs that occasionally fade to a dim but atmospheric glow. Only the monkeys scurrying over the roof and the chiming Tibetan prayer wheels from the top of the hill detract from the tartan atmosphere.

Towards teatime in Daisy's Music Room, Miss Chandryka, a pianist trained at the Royal College of Music, plays *Love's Old Sweet Song* and golden moments from *The Bohemian Girl*. She looks fondly back to London in the 1950s. The buses — are they still red? Oh, what happy days with the new young Queen! "But time stands still here, don't you think?"

Oh, very much so. A gong sounds and candlelit dinner is served by waiters in cummerbunds and turbans — split pea soup, perhaps, followed by clove-scented ham with candid (sic) carrots, followed by something Nepali, which we really ought to try, followed by treacle sponge and a good night's sleep.

Previous guests have included the royal families of Sikkim and Bhutan, Sir Edmund Hillary (Darjeeling is pretty handy for Everest), sundry rajahs, various viceroys and, back in the 1940s, when the memsahibs brought their fox stoles and their nannies, one Mr J. Keeble, who grins out of the photo albums with a Terry-Thomas moustache and an amusing party hat.

On the eve of Christmas Eve last year, Mrs Tenduf-la says the hotel's guests will include a Russian consul, some French diplomats, the Brittains from Sussex who are meeting their son and daughter-in-law from Bangladesh, the Miedemas — they are Americans — and Mr and Mrs Gates from Australia, who have been coming for six years.

Oh, and Mr McIntosh, also Australian, coming here for 16 years ("Just can't keep away," he says later). And Teddy Young? Do we have a Santa? Not as yet, says Mrs Tenduf-la. And smiles serenely. Few guests have yet arrived at the hotel, with its 10ft Christmas tree, its cotton wool scattered over bushes to simulate snow, and its balloons that deflate during the chilly nights.

So to fill the short breaks between hotel meals, we walk around Chowrasta, the town square where children play with tops and hoops. And we browse through the 1907 *Darjeeling District Gazetteer* in the Oxford Book Store (a gripping section on "intestinal worms"). From here, the modern town spills down the hillside — busy, down-at-heel and, given even a hint of rain, a mere muddy relic of great days.

We take tea with Mr Ranen Datta, secretary of the Darjeeling Planters' Association. His office is in a corner of the Planters' Club, its library full of mould, mildew and first edition John Buchans and A.J. Cronins, its dining room dominated by a snarling bear's head reputedly presented by Krushchev.

Mr Datta, with a quiet voice unusual in a Bengali, says his association "organises everything to do with tea — if not from A to Z, at least from A to T". He says he regularly deals with Britishers trying to trace their grandparents' estates and is guarded about Darjeeling today. "My *locus standi* on this is somewhat uncertain," he says and clamps his pipe between his teeth.

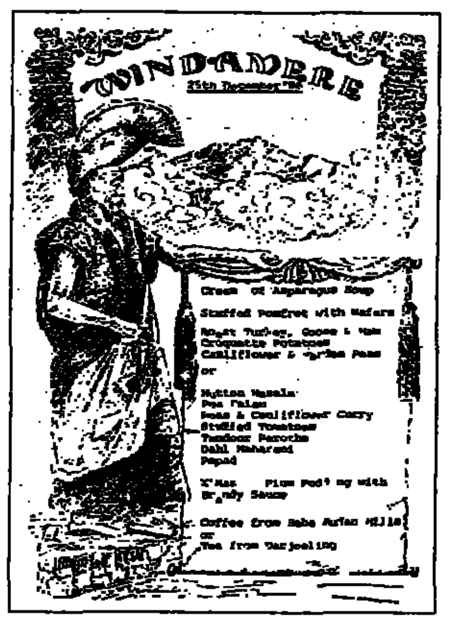
We walk back to the Windamere around The Mall, with its spectacular views over Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain. With five snowy peaks floating like a mirage over the mist, Kanchenjunga is an inspiring sight — if you can see it behind the pale blue haze that can shroud it for months. But at dusk on Christmas Eve, the sky changes from blue to pale pink. The moon has been out since lunchtime. Now the clouds merge in the smoke from the tiny white-roofed houses scattered like confetti down the hillsides. Dogs bark, ponies' bells ring and, in the deepening darkness, it is hard to tell where the stars end and the lights of the houses begin.

> Indian traders have swept away the British cobwebs

Back at the Windamere, the other guests have suddenly arrived, along with The Entertainers — Fenton Gray and Charles Miller, tenor and piano, specially flown in from Britain to croon Noël Coward and Cole Porter to order.

Mr Rao, the hotel catering manager, is back from Calcutta with the turkeys. They were packed in ice on the train, he says, and goes off to order vegetables from the market. After dinner, a party of Nepali schoolchildren sing *Silent Night* on the hotel terrace.

On Christmas morning, the maids deliver bright red stockings to every guest and, because we are being more English than the English, most of us go off to church. St Andrew's, a Gloucestershire church recreated in India, is fearfully cold and full of flaking yellow distemper.



Locals keep up to date with events at a busy newsstand

Its visitors' book goes back to 1926, when English gals came to see relatives in bungalows called Marigold Villa, Eden Chine and The Dingle. We sing *We Three Kings* like a dirge, without organ or piano accompaniment, and eat mince pies outside where it is warmer. Next door, the Gymkhana Club, famous during British days, is deserted. But a notice promises "New Year's Eve will be celebrated with the usual fervour and gaiety". We have missed the Darjeeling body-building competition.

Early evening fireworks, bonfire, dinner, Sikh pipers in full tartan to pipe in the plum pudding, and killer punch. After two or three glasses, the Brittains and the Miedemas discover they are fellow members of BACSA, the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia. A Good Cemeteries Tour of Darjeeling is arranged for Boxing Day.

Miss Chandryka plays *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, the Brits sing *Land of Hope and Glory* and we half-expect the Christmas message over the wireless — probably from George V. Suddenly, a bell rings and a loud "Ho ho ho" echoes across the hotel. Fortified by punch, Mr Gates from Australia has stuck on the cotton-wool whiskers.

When Teddy Young gets back, he will never hear the last of this.

DARJEELING FACT FILE

■ Stephen McClarence flew from Delhi to Bagdogra (the nearest airport to Darjeeling) with Indian Airlines and the Government of India Tourist Office.

■ The simplest way to reach Darjeeling from Britain is to fly to Calcutta, take a connecting flight to Bagdogra and then hire a taxi (about £12, negotiable) for the 50-mile onward journey.

■ Air India (01753 684828) flies four times a week from Heathrow to Calcutta via Delhi. Return fares available through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366) cost from £462 from early January. KLM (0990 750900) flies weekly from many UK airports via Amsterdam: fares through Trailfinders from £429 from January 6.

■ An Indian Airlines return flight from Calcutta to Bagdogra costs £86; it is most easily booked through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366).

The Windamere Hotel

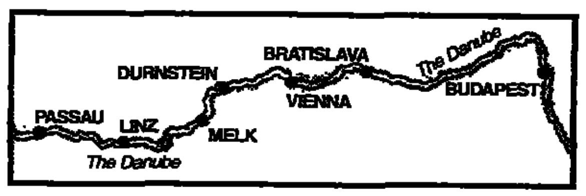
■ By rail, there are direct services from Delhi and Calcutta to New Jalpaiguri, with taxis on to Darjeeling at around £12. The narrow gauge toy train, which wheezes up from the plains to the town centre, has not been operating this season, but when it does it costs £3 for the uncomfortable ten-hour journey.

■ The Windamere Hotel (tel 0091 354 54041; fax 0091 354 54211 or 54043) has single rooms from US$92 (£59) and double rooms from $150 (£96), meals and taxes included. The hotel is fully booked this Christmas.

■ British passport holders need a six-month tourist visa (£19). Details from the Indian High Commission (0171-836 8484). Best time to visit: October to May. Nights can be very cold. No compulsory inoculations, but protection against cholera and malaria recommended.

■ Reading: *Rough Guide to India* (£14.99); *Louise Nicholson's India Companion* (Headline, £14.99).

■ Government of India Tourist Office: 7 Cork Street, London W1X 2LN (0171-437 3677).



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HOTELS: A STYLE GUIDE

The penthouse suite at the SoHo Grand in New York

Star-spangled style and service

by Victoria Smith

A breeze of change is tugging at the frowsy net curtains of London's hotels, blowing through their lobbies and sweeping away the stuffy formality for which some have long been known.

"Lobby culture" has blown over from New York, where a handful of high-profile establishments have created theatrical meeting places in their public spaces — and watched profits climb.

This stylish approach is underpinned by hard economic reality. Quite simply, London does not have enough hotel beds, and is unlikely ever to get enough new ones unless investors can be persuaded that hotels will give them as good a return on their money as offices.

The London Tourist Board estimates that the capital needs at least 10,000 extra hotel beds by 2000, to meet the needs of rising numbers of tourists. On paper it has them, with 1,880 rooms recently opened, 3,070 under construction and another 6,938 granted planning permission. But two years to realise more than 8,000 rooms from scratch is, at best, optimistic.

Sir John Egan, chairman of the London Tourist Board, is urgently trying to drum up investment. "It's not just between now and 2000 that is at issue. We must plan for the year 2020, and we need 20,000 more rooms than we have now," he says.

But where will they come from? The success of London's individually-owned, smallish, designer hotels could provide the answer. Currently reporting an average room occupancy of 85 per cent, the Metropolitan on Park Lane, owned by Singaporean businesswoman Christina Ong, continues to draw the chic set to its clubby bar and Nobu restaurant, as does its more upmarket sister hotel, the Halkin. Anouska Hempel's Blakes hotel and restaurant are as popular now as in their Eighties heyday, and her love-it-or-loathe-it Far Eastern folly, the Hempel, is making its own waves.

Although concepts differ wildly, these hotels owe a debt of gratitude to the US hotelier Ian Schrager. Like his New York successes the Royalton, the Paramount and Morgans, they have turned lobbies into designer meeting places, with striking open spaces and bedrooms to match, plus bars and restaurants that are the talk of the town.

In London, as in Manhattan, staff are young, good-looking, and wear designer uniforms — Donna Karan for the Metropolitan, Giorgio Armani for the Halkin in Belgravia. And increasingly, London hotels are following Schrager's lead, selecting staff for looks, style and chutzpah.

But the future is not guaranteed. Schrager's own expansion into London is meeting setbacks. A £150-million venture with property giant Burford once boasted four central sites, but two have lost the battle for square footage to office space. The old Post Office on the edge of Trafalgar Square has been rented to an advertising agency and Schrager himself rejected an office block in St Martin's Place.

His third and largest site, the Grade II listed Sandersons paint factory near Oxford Circus, is caught in a planning-permission wrangle with English Heritage, delaying plans to convert it into a 103-room hotel. The site, bought at £19 a square foot, is now worth £30 a square foot, and has attracted interest from companies such as National Magazine, looking to expand from its Broadwick Street base.

Only the development of the former Lumière cinema in St Martin's Lane seems certain to go ahead on time, with construction scheduled to start next spring. The shrinking of Schrager's project has prompted observers in the industry to question whether he'll stay with Burford but its chief executive, John Anderson, insists the conversions will go ahead.

So what will the London version look like? Anderson compares the Sandersons project to New York's majestic Royalton: the Lumière building to the more whimsical Paramount. Both owe their high camp and cutting-edge styles to French designer Philippe Starck, who has been drafted in to work on the London hotels.

He will have to compromise on the former paint factory. Its listed features include an enormous 1970s stained glass window, an external mosaic that owes more to community outreach work than classical Greece, and a poor excuse for a Japanese garden. English Heritage has decreed that all must stay, so Schrager and Starck will incorporate the stained glass into a vast lobby every bit as theatrical as its New York cousins. The mosaic and garden will form part of a canteen-style bar and restaurant, encased in glass, and fronting the street.

At the Lumière site in St Martin's Lane, project architect Peter Korkolis has already drawn up plans. As with Sandersons, there will be a large, lively atrium to fit in with the Schrager/Starck concept of

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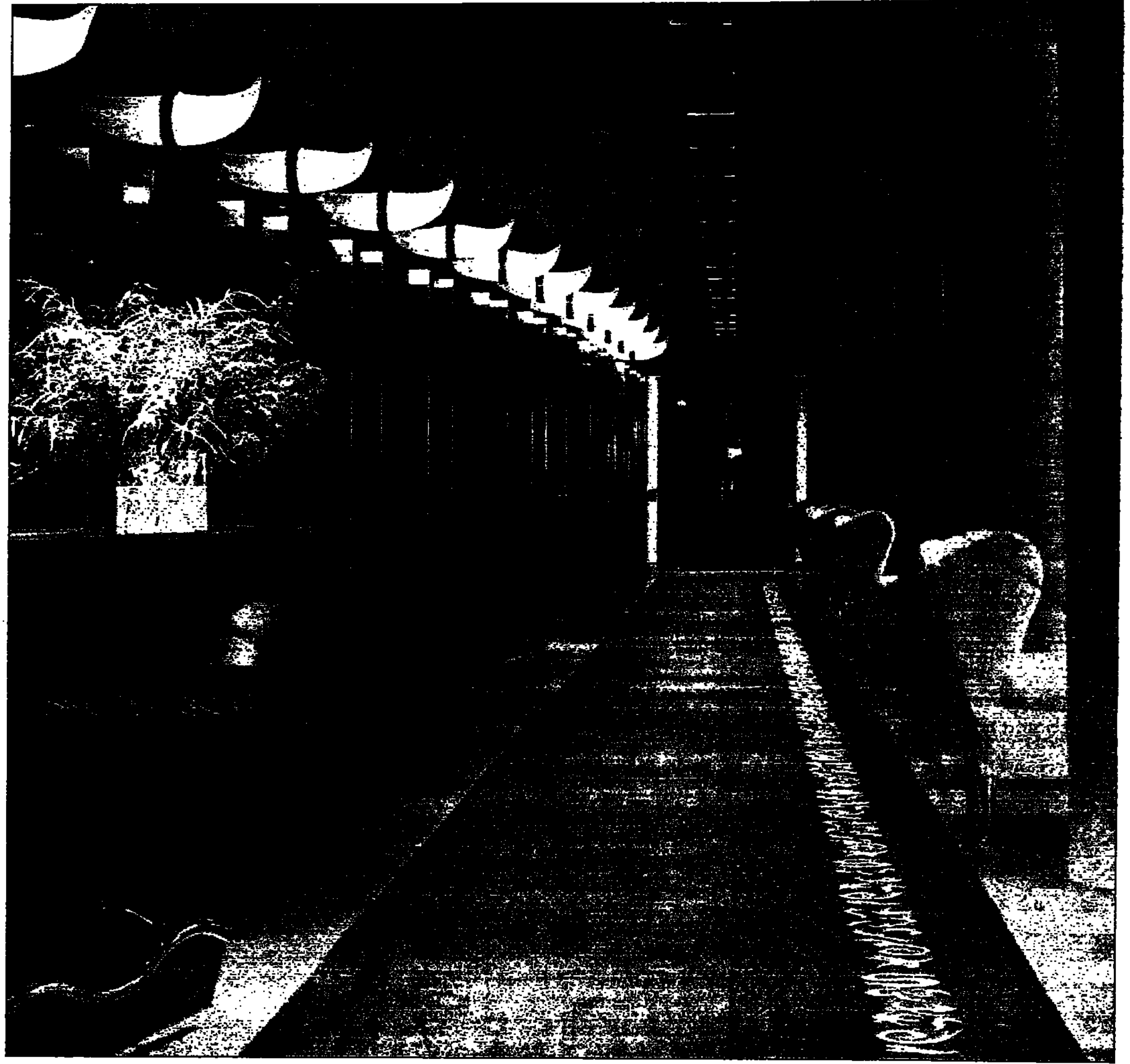
ARCAID


The Philippe Starck-designed Royalton is no place for the self-conscious guest. The theatrical lobby draws attention to all who pass through it

NEW YORK

In America's style capital, hotel lobby culture makes a star of every guest, and even the staff wear designer labels

THE SOHO GRAND
310 West Broadway (001 212 965 3000, fax 965 3141).
E-mail reservations at: *sohoselect@sohogrand.com.*

IN A city where hotels compete fiercely for prime locations, the SoHo Grand may have won the battle.

Overlooking bohemian West Broadway, this tribute to "haute minimalism" reflects the personality of its arty neighbourhood with an entrance lobby that looks like a gallery and has the decor to match.

The central staircase is a modern twist on a SoHo fire escape and the bases of the oversized lamps are reminiscent of easel stands.

Rooms here are monochrome and semi-institutional, but the lobby is alive with stylish wheelers and dealers. It is not, however, the best place for children — the chic tables and chairs are a bit too cutting-edge for little ones, who are prone to bumping their heads.

There are 367 rooms; winter rates $279-$1,000 (£175-£625).

Special features: fitness centre, reasonable bar prices.

Morgans: check out its handsome interior

MORGANS
237 Madison Avenue (001 212 686 0300, fax 779 8352).

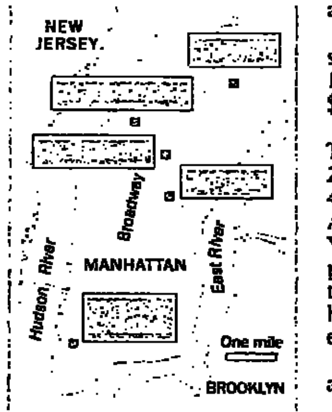
IAN SCHRAGER'S first Manhattan success has updated its 1980s look and has reopened its fêted Asia de Cuba restaurant.

Andrée Puttman, the designer, has redefined the hotel's concept of "home, only better" and given this handsome interior a feminine feel.

The wardrobes are huge, the sofas convert into beds for the children, and there is a fat-free mini-bar containing calorie-counted food for health-conscious guests. Functional shades of taupe and oatmeal highlight Morgans' business-like nature. There is a meeting room and faxes or secretarial service — for a fee.

Busy parents will benefit from the crèche, babysitting service and doctor. No buzzing lobby life here, but privacy and stylish comfort.

There are 113 rooms, 30 suites: rates $265-$415 (£165-£260); special rate for January $205 (£128).



The Mark, favourite of stars and high society

THE MARK
25 East 77th Street (001 212 744 4300, fax 744 2749).

A FAVOURITE with New York society — Madonna played *Truth or Dare* here — this mid-town success story hits the mark for discreet elegance.

The vast, practical rooms are stylish and the walls are adorned with Piranesi prints. The amenities and room service are among the best in town, and there is a free shuttle service to Wall Street.

Unfortunately, the Mark's Italian influences extend to the front desk, where Latin temperaments run high, giving a poor first impression. So, too, does the lack of a business centre.

There are 120 rooms plus 60 suites; rates $380-$875 (£237-£550). Special features: fitness centre, discount vouchers for Bloomingdale's.

THE ROYALTON
44 West 44th Street (001 212 869 4400, fax 575 0012).

THE Schrager/Starck concept of hotel as theatre gets a standing ovation here, with actors, media moguls and wannabes peopling the Royalton stage.

This is certainly not a place for the self-conscious. The vast lobby is designed to thrust you firmly into the spotlight — so you had better look as if you can afford it.

A 4,000 square foot suite with unparalleled views over Times Square — site of over-the-top celebrations every New Year's Eve — costs $3,000 (£1,875) a night. Even the standard rooms have opulent details, including candles, fresh orchids and mirrored bathrooms.

The Royalton's famous 44 restaurant is nicknamed the Condé Nast Canteen, which gives you some idea of the kind of people you will be dining with.

There are 205 rooms: winter rates, $295-$395 (£185-£246), discounts in late December.

Special features: conference calling facilities, modem/fax hook-ups, working fireplaces and exercise bikes in 40 rooms, fitness suite, personal trainer, massage therapists.

THE PARAMOUNT
235 West 46th Street (001 212 764 5500, fax 354 5237).

THE MOMENT you enter the Paramount, you know that you have arrived. Leaving the blare and glare of Times Square outside, you enter a cavern of cool, designer chic, where the Beautiful People make movie deals and where roses sprout from the walls.

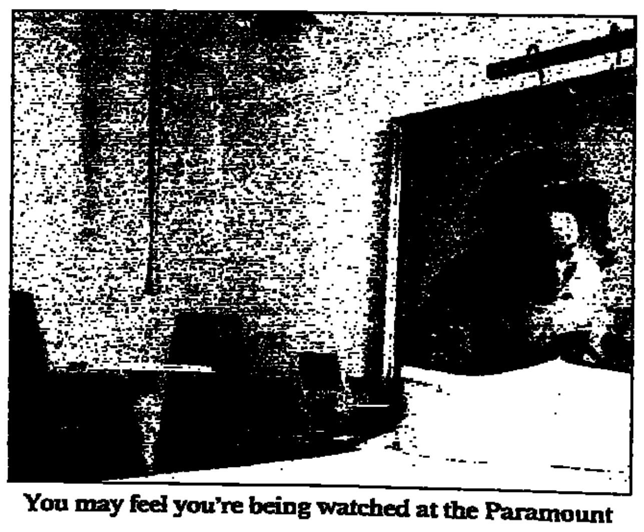
Ian Schrager's hippest Manhattan hotel gives free rein to Philippe Starck's whimsical designs, stopping just short of parody.

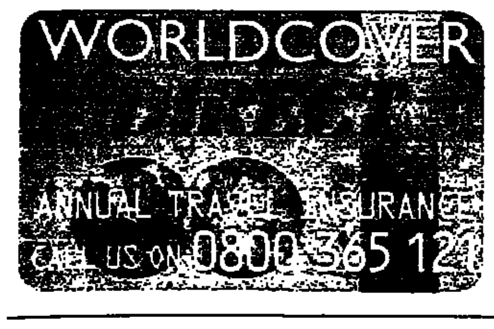
Purists may wince at the intricately engraved urinals and gigantic Vermeer prints transformed into headboards, but the trendy young things love it, not least for its affordable prices. The rooms, though small, are crammed with style.

Not so the business centre, a fusion of strip-lights and stained carpets that has all the charm of a council office.

There are 600 rooms including 12 suites: $155-$185 (£97-£115) until end of January, $205-$325 (£128-£203) February onwards. Special features: gourmet takeaway, children's playroom, fitness centre.

● *All New York hotel rates are subject to an additional room tax of 13.25 per cent, plus between $2 and $8 a day.*


You may feel you're being watched at the Paramount



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HOTELS: A STYLE GUIDE

set to shake up the old guard

Continued from page 20

lobby culture. Its design features remain a secret, but there will be a centrepiece to rival the Paramount's gold-leaf tiling wall, and a bar and café to echo its Whiskey Bar and gourmet deli. Korkolis is less secretive about the rooms. "Guests will be able to alter the mood of their rooms by changing the lighting effect, from yellow to red to blue."

Rooms on the first floor will have their own mini-courtyards, and there are plans for a penthouse with a view of Trafalgar Square.

Like the Paramount, the cheapest of Ian Schrager's New York hotels, the room rates will range from £120 to £200, considerably less than the grander-scale Sandersons project and the capital's other five-star designer hotels.

With the Schrager hotels not due for completion before the turn of the century, hoteliers are casting an eye over the short-term competition.

Three major projects are well under way: Marriott's County Hall development, in the former headquarters of the GLC on the south bank of the Thames, the old Pearl Assurance Building in Holborn, and Terence Conran's first London hotel venture, the Great Eastern at Liverpool Street Station.

But it is the trend for the smaller "boutique" hotels, such as Schrager's, that threatens the pre-eminence of Christina Ong and Anouska Hempel. Mrs Ong is currently working on her third London hotel, Canary Riverside, on the Isle of Dogs, due for completion in January 1999. But the hotel name on everyone's lips next spring is likely to be One Aldwych, due to open in April.

Owner Gordon Campbell-Grey has recently returned from New York, where he bought a contemporary art collection for his five-star creation. He acknowledges the success of modern minimalist hotels like the Metropolitan and Hempel, but is unafraid of taking them on.

"I want a sleek, contemporary design that's not cold, sharp-edged and industrial," he says. "I've been around the world staying in five-star hotels, and the dripping deluxeness upset me. There's an awful lot of superfluous luxury, but the secret of a great hotel is service."

Unlike the Metropolitan and Schrager's US hotels, his staff will come from a training and development department, and not the designer boutiques. "You can't staff a whole hotel with beautiful people. You need experience," he says.

Campbell-Grey is proud of the fact that One Aldwych is financed by British cash, and is confident of its location, in the heart of theatreland. He boasts that its rates, starting at £175 a night, undercut old-timers such as the Savoy and the Dorchester. But he and the current five-star glories face a further challenge. The successful Malmaison hotel chain, whose low prices and modern features have won awards in Glasgow and Edinburgh, is moving south. A third Malmaison (the chain is named after the home of Napoleon Bonaparte near Versailles) opened in Newcastle last month, and two more are under construction, in Manchester and Leeds.

Now Arcadian International, which owns the Malmaison chain, is targeting the capital, with a prime site in the former Norway House in Trafalgar Square, due to open in 1999.

Malmaison, the creation of Glaswegian hotelier Ken McCulloch, claims to combine low prices with a lively atmosphere. Room rates in northern cities are between £95 and £230, the design by McCulloch's partner, Amanda Rosa, is bold and modern and every guest is provided with CDs on sale at half-price when checking out.

The hotels make savings by replacing 24-hour room service with an all-night café, and are conventional with food: pizzas and pasta, with a French brasserie for lunch and dinner.

Nigel Massey, spokesman for the Malmaisons, the Halkin and the Metropolitan, compares them to department stores. "The Halkin and the Met are Aspreys and the Conran Shop. Malmaison is Marks & Spencer with a twist," he says.

Like the Hempel with its I-Thai eaterie and the Metropolitan with Nobu, Malmaison hopes to appeal to Londoners looking for an alternative to the restaurant scene.

And it is not alone. The Meridien on Piccadilly has already turned over its Oak Room to the chef Marco Pierre White and is doing a roaring trade. Even statelier, corporate hotels such as the Landmark in Marylebone have updated their cholesterol-rich menus to satisfy today's demand for a Mediterranean-Oriental fusion of flavours.

But despite the welter of building projects and new ideas, there is still no guarantee that London will have enough hotel beds by 2000 — especially if the Millenium Dome proves, as expected, a massive draw for visitors. So if you want to be in the capital to see in the new millennium, you would be best advised to book your hotel room well in advance.

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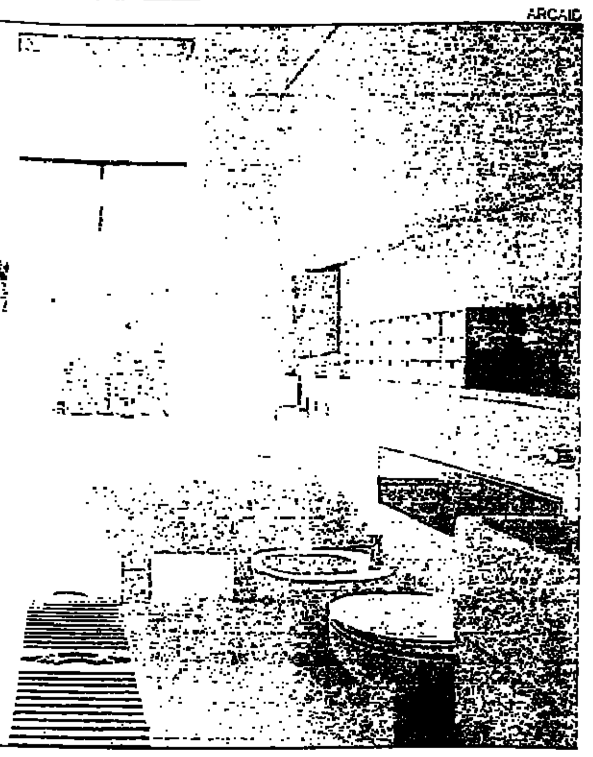


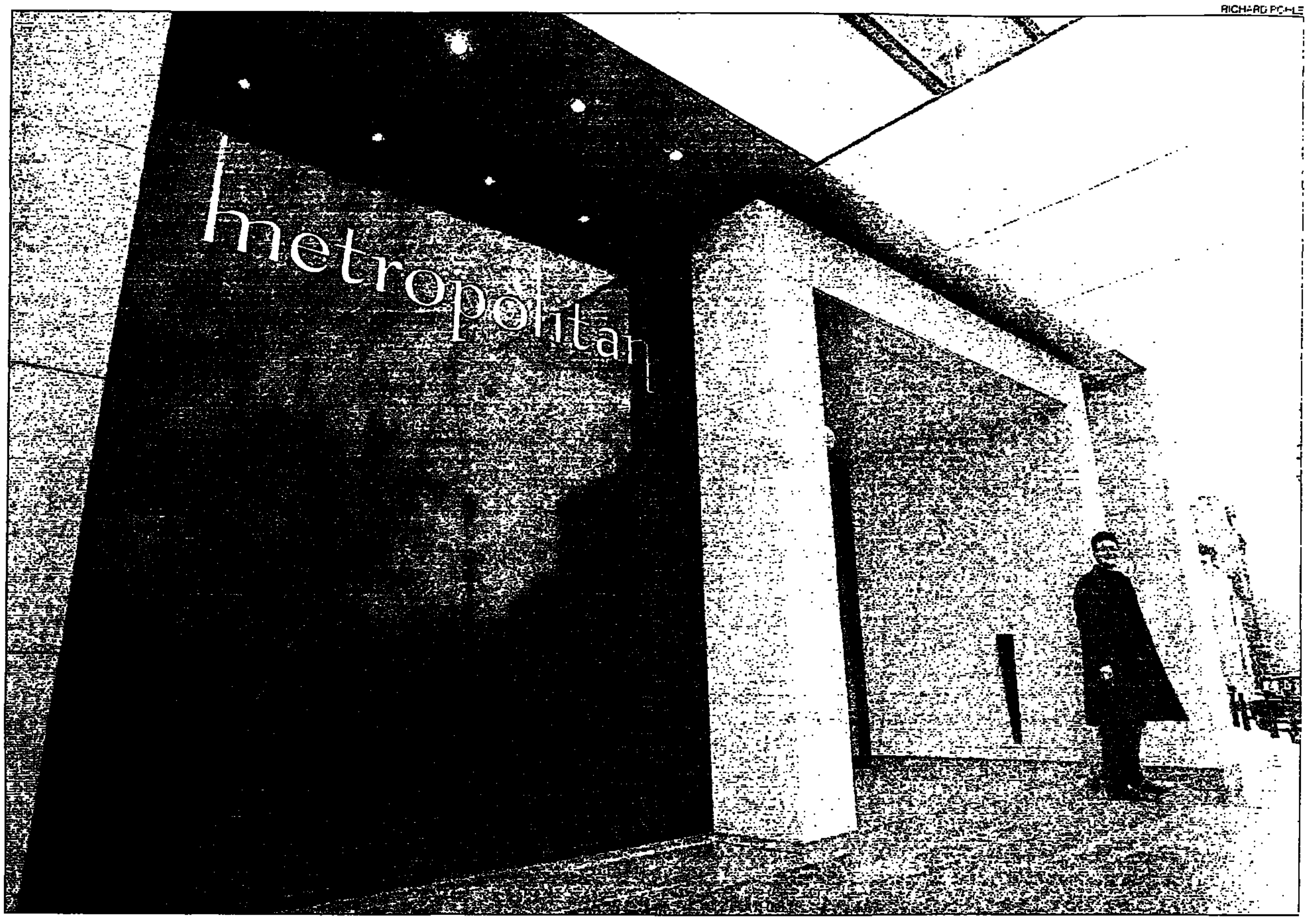
Plenty of white space is the theme at The Hempel

LONDON

Minimalist chic is the hallmark of the Capital's most fashionable hotels

Oriental opulence: a bedroom at the Halkin

RICHARD POHLE



Seriously trendy and highly exclusive, the Metropolitan, a favoured haunt of screen and stage stars, dispenses with over-elaboration. Its private bar has 2,000 members

THE HALKIN
5 Halkin Street, 0171-333 1000,
fax 333 1100

DO LUXURIES such as a bedside air-conditioning control unit and a computerised Do not Disturb sign make up for a dirty duvet cover? This was the only black mark I gave to an otherwise spotless hotel, tucked away amid the rooftops of Belgravia.

Christina Ong's creation combines discreet opulence with practicality. The rooms are on five themed floors — water, air, fire, earth and sky — and reflect each of those elements in their use of wood, glass and stone.

In the hotel's serene Michelin-starred restaurant, exquisite Milanese cooking is served without fuss. I had caviar and cold spaghetti — surprisingly successful — and an excellent main course of pan-fried calves liver with red onion marmalade.

Celebrity magnet: Blakes

There are 30 rooms and 11 suites; doubles from £240, suites from £375.

Special features: private dining suite, financial services room, fax/modem lines, telephone super-user rate.

THE METROPOLITAN
Old Park Lane, 0171-447 1000,
fax 447 1100

THE HALKIN's younger, trendier sister, the Metropolitan's minimalist chic makes your eyes water. Even the wood is stripped of varnish, and the bare expanse of blinding white you have paid to sleep in has all the charm of a designer padded cell.

Still, it does not lack a sense of humour. When a brick fell on to the bed of a famous film producer, the staff asked him to put it back, then filled the room with flowers.

Movie moguls and television celebrities flock to the Met. A table at its Japanese restaurant, Nobu, requires strategic advance booking, and the exclusive Met Bar has a private guest list of 2,000. The night I went, the cast of cult TV show *This Life* had just been made members.

There are 137 rooms and 17 suites, one penthouse with Japanese rock garden and views over Hyde Park: singles from £175, doubles £225; from January 1 prices rise to start at £195/£245; penthouse £1,300-£1,500.

Special features: health club, massage therapy, jogging map of Hyde Park, shopping itineraries, secretarial services, mobile phones and printers on request.

BLAKES
33 Roland Gardens,
0171-370 6701, fax 373 0442

BLAKES likes to show off. From its opulent four-poster beds heaped with cushions, to the ostentatious initial 'B' embossed on the shower stalls, this diminutive hotel is proud of itself. It has every reason to be, attracting a steady flow of equally showy customers who, like the décor, owe more to Eighties braggadocio than Nineties subtlety.

Regulars include Robert de Niro, Jean Paul Gaultier and Francis Ford Coppola, whose own Californian red is on the wine list for £55. Liam Gallagher and his wife, actress Patsy Kensit, spent their honeymoon here, following their wedding last April.

It's fun, though. Owner-designer Anouska Hempel's jumble of Eastern influences reflects the riches of the Raj and the designer-sleaze of an emperor's opium den. The service is first-rate. The receptionists remember your name, and the restaurant is a London institution.

There are 51 rooms including nine suites: singles £130, doubles from £155-£300, suites £475-995 (these prices valid until March 1998). Special features: private courtyard, conference facilities, fax lines, oxygen cannisters in the mini-bar.

THE HEMPEL
31-35 Craven Hill Gardens,
London W2 3EA.
0171-298 9000, fax 402 4666.
e-mail: the-hempel@easynet.co.uk

ZEN AND the art of hotel design converge in this Temple to Cool, also owned by Anouska Hempel. The Eastern influence is back, but stripped of its colour and heat, it offers soaring white spaces, with shadows for contrast.

A projection of Rita Hayworth looks down on a vast, stark lobby with floating fireplaces and sunken Japanese seating.

Room features are quirky to the point of pretension: there are airline-style toilets surrounded by orchids; and you sleep on a futon on a mezzanine floor suspended above the hotel room.

Even Craven Hill Gardens has been unofficially renamed Hempel Garden Square after the woman who redesigned it.

If you are looking for home comforts, stay away. But the sensation-seekers love it, not least for the experimental I-Thai restaurant, where the menu's unusual mix of Italian and Thai food was recently slated by some critics as overly pretentious.

There are 36 rooms, six suites and six serviced apartments: doubles from £220; deluxe suite £775.

Special features: fax in every room, ISDN and modem lines, full video-conferencing facilities, private rooms and garden, fitness centre, babysitting service, 24-hour lemongrass tea and sake.

The lobby of the Metropolitan typifies the hotel's sparse, minimalist approach

THE LANDMARK
222 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 6JQ,
0171-631 8000, fax 631 8033,
e-mail: reservations@landmark.btinternet.com.uk

A WORLD apart from the new-look five-star hotels, the Victorian fripperies of the Landmark still attract a fair share of rock stars and models.

It is a favourite of Michael Jackson and Celine Dion. Oasis star Noel Gallagher and wife Meg considered holding their wedding reception in its ornate rooms.

Despite initial appearances, including the eight-storey Winter Gardens, resplendent with palm trees and tinkling piano music, the hotel has a corporate feel. Its pricey bedrooms come in tones of beige and bland, with individual faxes and ISDN lines.

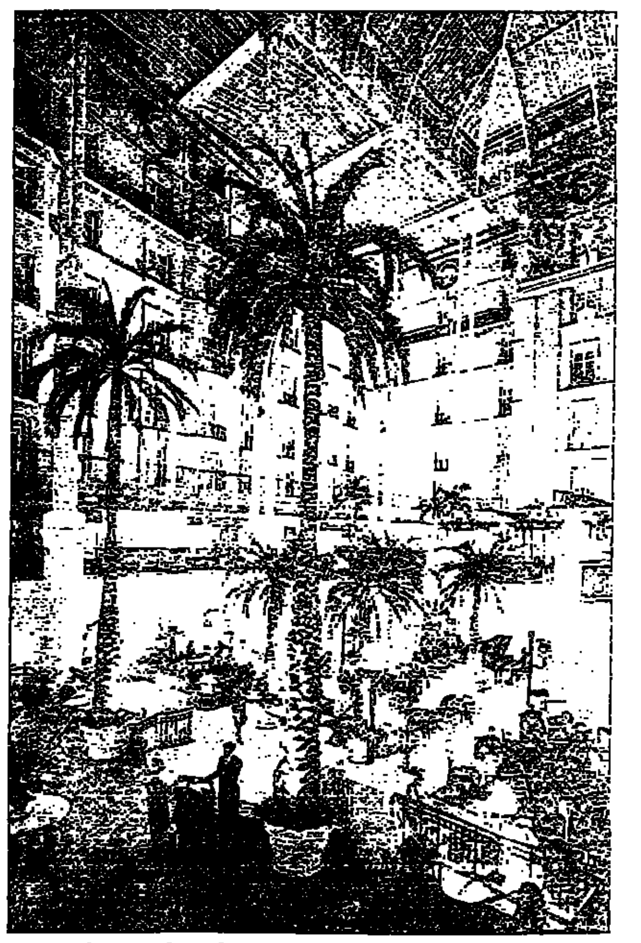
The Landmark is keen to cash in on the trend for "lobby culture", encouraging drop-in custom to its Cellars bar and formal dining room, with its impressive menu courtesy of new chef Andrew McLeish.

There are 297 rooms and one presidential suite. Between December 19 and January 11 1998 (excluding December 31), doubles cost from £149 for bed and full English breakfast, plus a free taxi to Oxford or Bond Street to go shopping.

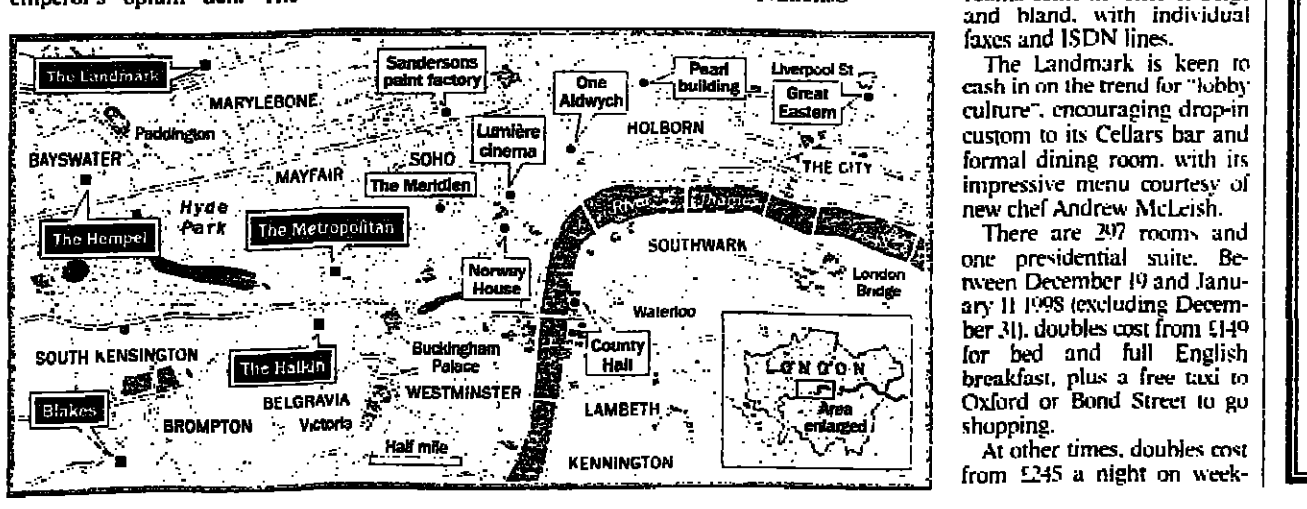
At other times, doubles cost from £245 a night on weekdays and from £180 a night at weekends. The presidential suite costs £1,083.

Special features: health suite with indoor pool, florist, beauty salon, doctor and dentist on call, picnic baskets on request in summer.

● *All London hotel prices given exclude VAT at 17½ per cent.*



The Landmark's Victorian, palm-treed lobby



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AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Life among the Lycians

THE mysteries of life among the Lycians will be revealed next year to visitors to the Kas peninsula in Turkey. Dr Clifton Stockdale of Durham University, a specialist on ancient civilisation, will give talks on Lycian culture to holidaymakers staying at the Savile Residence, a country house hotel, between June 13 and September 12.

Relatively little is known of the Lycians, believed to have originated in Crete, who left chunky stone sarcophagi and elaborately decorated rock tombs around the shores and hillsides of Kas.

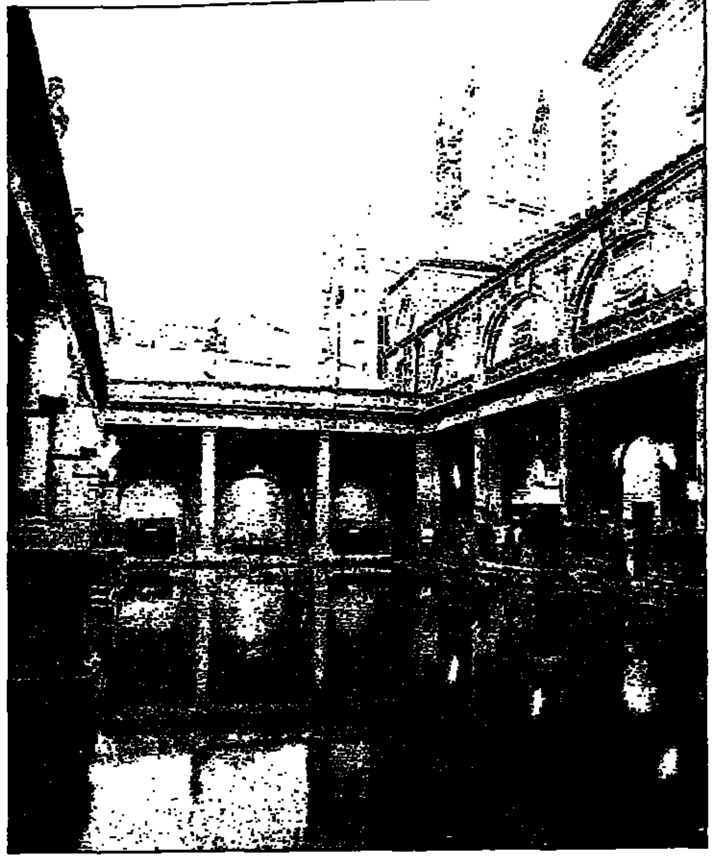
The Savile Residence, which is close to the self-catering Club Savile, provides an inclusive Mediterranean breakfast (eggs, olives, honey, fruit, frankfurters and salamis) in the à la carte restaurant. Rooms have hi-fi systems, TV and CD players. There is no sandy beach — swimming is from bathing platforms or in the freshwater pool. The resort has its own gym.

During July and August, a Turkish cookery specialist will also give weekly cookery demonstrations. The tours and talks are included in the price of £479-£599 a week, £599-£749 for two weeks. These prices include flights. More information from Savile Row Tours and Travel (0171 625 3001).

■ **BATH SPA is something of a misnomer these days, little more than a lyrical name for the railway station. The Roman baths are a splendid piece of steaming history, but there are no spa facilities beyond a glass of sulphurous water in the Pump Room. All that will change with the £13.5 million development of a spa complex in the town starting next spring, and due for completion in 2000. Two semi-derelict 18th-century spa buildings, close to the Roman baths, will be renovated and the old Bow Street swimming pool will be demolished to make way for a building designed by Nicholas Grimshaw. The aim of the local council, which will share the cost with the Millennium Commission, is to make Bath a centre to rival some of the great spa resorts in Europe.**

Paul Simons, project director, says: "Increasingly, health tourism is making incursions into the regular holiday market." The new building will not try to imitate the town's Georgian architectural style: "It will be modern with a capital M."

NICK SMITH



Roman rival: Bath will have a £13.5 million spa complex by 2000

Cycling high

THE increasing popularity of mountain biking has encouraged Sunworld Sailing (01273 626284) to introduce its first dedicated mountain bike centre in Kitzbühel, Austria, with programmes for all abilities. Guides will lead group excursions five days a week, while route maps are provided for independent explorers. Summer biking events in the area include the national Hahnekamm Hill climb, the Grundig World Cup in August and the KitzAlp Bike marathon in September.

A week's half-board chalet accommodation in Kitzbühel costs from £495-£568, which also includes flights, a three-day lift pass and hire of bike and equipment.

WORLD PICTURES

Wheelie on top of it all: hire a mountain bike in Kitzbühel, Austria, and enjoy some of the most exhilarating views in the world

Cleaner air

MALAYSIA'S smog has lifted at last. Sailing through the Straits of Malacca last week I saw the clear sunny skies and bright starry nights. This is a huge relief to the Government, which is spending £2.5 billion on a new airport and £300 million on stadiums, an athlete's village and five-star hotels for next year's Commonwealth Games, to be held from September 11-21 in Kuala Lumpur.

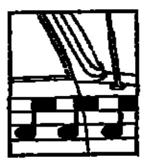
"The smog had a disastrous effect on our bookings," says Dale Garvin, manager of the Pangkor Laut resort on a formerly uninhabited island off Pangkor itself. The resort is adding isolated luxury compounds for well-heeled wannabe Crusoes — each one is an oriental-style home, with sunken outdoor bath, a chef and a butler.

There are also rather too many resident mosquitoes, but they have been targeted by the management. "We are spraying twice daily," reassures Mr Garvin. Cruises through the Straits of Malacca on a sailing clipper cost from £995 a week, excluding flights, with Fred Olsen (01473 292229). A week at Pangkor Laut costs £975, room only but including flights, from Kuoni (01306 740500).

■ **OPERA, theatrical performances and exhibitions are planned next year to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Spain's great poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca. The activities will centre on Barcelona, Madrid and Granada, the cities where he spent most of his life. Lorca was murdered in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War.**

In 1999 the Prado museum in Madrid is preparing four exhibitions for the 400th anniversary of the birth of the painter Velazquez. Details from the Spanish National Tourist Office (0171-486 8077).

Time to check your seatbelt



TAKE a New York cab and listen to the likes of Placido Domingo, Joan Rivers and Eartha Kitt whispering sweet words in your ear. They and other celebrities are helping the Taxi and Limousine Commission by urging all passengers, through recorded messages that play as the vehicle moves off, to wear seatbelts.

More taxi tales, this time from Greece. If you are one of the many who have suffered at the hands of surly and rapacious Greek taxi drivers, mainly in Athens, you will be pleased to know that complaint forms and price lists are now displayed at airports — and, somewhat surprisingly, in the cabs themselves.

Drivers will have to attend seminars run by the Ministry of Development on behaviour, cleanliness and communications. We shall see whether they have any effect.

■ **FORGET the Caribbean sunshine, sand and sea — the purpose of a tour of the Lesser Antilles is to focus on the history and artistic heritage of the islands and examine the contemporary political scene. The 14-day tour, from November 19 to December 3 next year, is offered by cultural specialist Martin Randall (0181-742 3355). It will visit Nelson's dockyard and Clarence House, built for the future king William IV in Antigua, and Dominica's rainforest and reserves where descendants of the Caribs, some of the Caribbean's original inhabitants, still live.**

The Island of Martinique, birthplace of the Napoleon's Empress Josephine, and Barbados are also on the itinerary. Visits to private homes and meetings with prominent people are also promised. And yes, time is allowed for sunbathing. The tour costs £3,140 which includes flights, half-board, entrance fees and an accompanying expert.

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FOR MORE U.K.HOLIDAYS ADVERTISEMENTS TURN TO PAGE 24

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SKI WEEKEND BEYOND THE BROCHURES

Light traffic: Grand Targhee, a tiny resort located not far from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the pistes are ideal for intermediate skiers during the spring months

DOUG SAGER

Skiing in the middle of nowhere

DOUG SAGER

NOT a creature is stirring, not even the mouse I saw in the wood box when I went to bed last night. The silence wakes me up. It is dark, too, darker than it should be. The chalet has no electricity and little light is coming in the window.

Groggily, I manage to remember where I am: inside a somewhat primitive farmhouse in central Switzerland. I have been invited to spend Christmas in a village so small that the passing Glacier Express train stops only by special request. There are no hotels and no shops and it was an hour's hike through swirling snow to get here last night from the railway tracks.

Out in the living room, my friend is huddled by the huge stone oven. She is staring across the room at the latticed windows. It is snowing like I have never seen snow before. It has already covered the house on three sides, there is no wind and no sky to be seen. Snowflakes are all I can see, fat and heavy, piling up over the windows as we watch. We will not be skiing today. Nobody will be going anywhere. We are snowbound in Segnes.

When it is put like that, who would want to argue? A skier contemplates the point of no return in Grand Targhee

RICHARD REISZ

EVERY YEAR the brochures get bigger and tour operators invade the smallest of previously "secret" hideaways. Two such, Ste Foy in France and Alagna in Italy, appear for the first time this season with The Ski Company and Crystal. But dozens of small resorts remain buried beyond the brochures, inviting individuals to make their own journeys of discovery.

SEGNES
Switzerland

The Swiss communal ethos means that no sooner is the oven stoked up in the living room, and the wood-burning stove in the kitchen fired up to melt the frost on the table, than a neighbour knocks on the door. The smiling old lady next door hauls in a steaming bucket of fresh milk. There is no way anyone could make it to the shops, a half-hour's hike away in Disentis, a medieval monastery town with 60km of prepared pistes, one of which runs right into Segnes. Its nine lifts rise to 2,900m, starting point for an easy climb up the Oberalpstock (3,328m) and a thrilling descent of almost 2,000 vertical metres down a deserted valley to Sedrun, connected by railway to Segnes and Disentis.

Getting there: The Disentis tourist office (0041 81 9475822) has information on local farmhouses and chalets. Trains from Geneva or Zurich change at Brig for the Glacier Express to Disentis. The train will stop at Segnes if the conductor is told in advance. Switzerland Tourism (0171-734 1921) has a timetable. From December 16, easyJet (0990 292929) has twice-daily return flights to Geneva from Luton, starting at £115.

BRUNICO
Italy

There is a lot to be said for learning to ski in a resort with long, easy pistes; tremendous sunshine and wonderful views of the surrounding Dolomites. During two winters spent learning to ski, I had a lot of time to look at the mountains while I was lying in a heap in the snow. The skiing is on the flat-topped Kronplatz, a small mountain in terms of altitude (2,275m), like most in the Dolomites, but with 85km of groomed pistes flowing out in three directions from the top.

Skiing down to St Vigilio Enneberg, one arrives at a time-warp hamlet where the mountain dialect of Ladin prevails over the linguistic warfare between German and Italian. Historically, local folk speak German, Italian having been imposed with force after the First World War. That is why the Kronplatz is also called the Plan de Corones, and Brunico is known to its natives as Bruneck. When it comes to cooking, an accord is achieved, with the best of krapfen doughnuts and strudel going down nicely with pasta and pizza equal to the best anywhere else in Italy.

Brunico is a medieval town with castle, cathedral and a mountain river cunningly diverted into fish shops where live trout frolic in flowing water. Accommodation is so inexpensive that I was able to afford a flat in a schloss.

Getting there: Brunico tourist office (0039 474 555722) has its own train station, on the main line from Bolzano. The nearest airport is Innsbruck, from which direct motorway access through the Brenner pass leads to the Pustertal turnoff on to the S49, from which Brunico is about 30km. Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300) has return flights to Innsbruck via Vienna from Heathrow for £249.40 in February. Apartments cost £19-£38 a day; call the tourist office for information.

CHAMPEX LAC
Switzerland

There is nothing like a high mountain lake and dense fir forests to add charm to a winter scene. Not many tourists make it up the hairpin turns to Champex Lac. But when they do, they want to stay for ever. I first went to Champex to see the dogs. Each winter there are husky dog sledge races through the wooded trails and over the frozen lake. Now I go back every winter for the skiing and the food. One of the best restaurants in the Alps is Gabriel Favre's Hotel Belvédère, an unpretentious, inexpensive *relais de campagne*.

Champex's skiing is limited and intermediate, on piste, but the off-piste is awesome. The resort is on the world's most famous ski touring itinerary, the week-long Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt. Champex is included on the Four Valleys skipass issued by Verbier (about an hour away).

Champex Lac, Switzerland, famed for its skiing and food

Getting there: Champex Lac tourist office (0041 27 783 1227) has accommodation details; the three-star Hotel Belvédère (0041 27 783 1114) has half-board for £36 a night, based on two sharing. Trains from Geneva airport run to Martigny, with bus transfers to Champex. Switzerland Tourism (0171-734 1921) has timetable details; return tickets for the whole journey cost £44. EasyJet (0990 292929) has return flights to Geneva from Luton starting at £115.

GRAND TARGHEE
Wyoming

Hideaway resorts are not easy to find in America, where skiers think if a resort is any good everybody ought to be there. Grand Targhee is far from well known, but only an hour's drive from Jackson Hole. Its monstrous cliff bands feature regularly in extreme skiing videos and warning signs, which are no joke, read: "Going beyond this point may result in death and/or loss of skiing privileges". But its groomed pistes are pitched for intermediate pleasure and in March the sun transforms them into the smoothest snow conditions. The tiny village is ideal for children, adults being entertained by live country and western bands in tents set up with kegs of beer and outdoor barbecues, which help to ameliorate any sense of isolation.

Getting there: Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce (001 307 733 3316) has accommodation and resort information for Grand Targhee. Shuttles run there from Jackson Hole airport and there is also a daily Targhee Express bus. Ski Independence (0990 550555) has ten-night packages to Jackson Hole and Grand Targhee in February for £898 — flights are from Heathrow via Chicago and Denver. United Vacations (0181-750 9674) has flights to Jackson from £442.

WEBWORLD

ON SNOW

SKIERS booked for Christmas in the Alps have good reason to be concerned. As departure dates for Christmas draw near, no resort in the Alps is anywhere close to 100 per cent open, despite snowfalls last week. Now that most resorts have their own Web sites, however, and many display digital photographs from cameras on the peaks, getting immediate and accurate news of snow conditions is easier — and cheaper — than ever.

Overviews for the Alps are provided for France (*http://www.skifrance.fr*), Switzerland (*http://www.switzerlandtourism.ch*) and Austria (*http://austria-info.at*) by the respective tourist authorities. Italy has no national site but 12 large regions in the Dolomites are covered on *http://www.dolomitisuperski.com*. Swiss and French resorts in the Portes du Soleil circuit share *http://www.portesdusoleil.com*

North America is served by frequently updated sites, arranged by state or province. Among the best are *http://www.aminews.com/ski/areas/usa/* and *http://www.rsn.com*

Skiers should note that information on all the above pages is provided by resorts themselves, not by independent assessors. Snow reports can never be free from the suspicion of bias.

Reporters planning to be in the Alps this winter are invited to give their own assessments to the commercial snow reporting service Ski Hotline (*http://www.skihotline.com*) which covers 206 resorts. Contributors can earn £20 for two reports per week. For details, contact *comments@skihotline.com*.

DOUG SAGER

Joanna Hunter finds last-minute departures

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ IT IS still not too late to escape for Christmas: L'Horizon (01534 43101) at St Brelade's Bay, Jersey, is offering a minimum two-night break from £150 per person. Includes full board accommodation and family entertainment. Children up to 12 sharing with two adults stay for £30 a night B&B; 25 per cent discount on a separate room.

☐ DEEP in Snowdonia National Park, Penmaenuchaf Hall (01341 422129) is the perfect holiday retreat. From December 24 to December 27, three nights' full board accommodation — including a five-course Christmas meal and champagne brunch — is on offer from £330 per person.

☐ HOTEL Val de Vienne (00 335 4948 2727) near Poitiers, France, has a four-night Christmas break that concludes with a cross-country four-wheel drive. From December 24 to December 28, full board accommodation is £350 per person, including transport from Poitiers station. Flights not included.

☐ COSMOS (0161-480 5799) is offering an eight-day sea and coach tour of the Rhine, the Black Forest and the Tyrol for £318 per person, including six breakfasts, five dinners and Christmas lunch. Departs on December 22 from London or a ferry port, to be confirmed.

☐ SAMPLE an Eastern European Christmas in Budapest at £299 per person with Thermalia Travel (0171-483 1898). The price includes three nights' B&B and a gala Christmas dinner, access to spa facilities, return flights, transfers and taxes. Departure from Heathrow on December 23.

☐ WARM up with Cadogan Holidays (01703 828303) which offers eight nights' B&B at the Oudaya Hotel, Marrakesh for £499 per adult and £459 per child under 12. Departs Gatwick on Christmas Eve. Price includes return flights, transfers and taxes.

☐ TAKE your chances on the first of the season's skiing with First Choice (0990 557755), which has seven nights' full board at the Chalet Alpenrose in Canmore, Canada, for £329, including return flights from Gatwick on December 17 or seven nights' half-board at Clubhotel Genepi in Les Deux Alpes for £259 per person, departing Manchester on December 19. Ski hire and pass not included.

☐ AIRTOURS (0161-907 3891) has reduced its offer of seven nights' accommodation only at the Swiss Village in Banff, Canada, from £601 to £399 per person. Return flights from Manchester, leaving December 20. Transfers included, but not taxes, equipment or ski pass.

☐ KUONI (01306 742222) is offering a week in St Lucia, and you can still be back for Christmas. Departing from Heathrow on December 16, seven nights' accommodation at the Orange Grove costs from £1,146 per person.

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday December 15 to Saturday December 20, 1997
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
London – Amsterdam	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
Birmingham – Amsterdam	£99mw/£109we BA	£290 BA
London – Belfast	£74 JEA (ex-Stansted/Gatwick)	£136 JEA (ex-Stansted/Gatwick)
London – Brussels	from £64 Virgin Express (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£200 Sabena (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick/City)
London – Cork	£119mw/£129we BA (ex-Gatwick)	£295 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – Edinburgh	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£198 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Geneva	from £98 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£408 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Palma (Majorca)	from £98 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£346 British Midland (ex-Heathrow)
Manchester – Paris	£110mw/£122we BA	£346 BA

Airline telephone numbers

British Airways (BA) 0345 222111
British Midland 0345 554554
easyJet 0990 292929
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Notes

- mw-midweek; we-weekend.
- Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
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Dates (Fri/Sat/Sun)	Self Catering	B&B	Catered/HB	Seat Only
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9 Jan-18 Jan	£179	£189	£249	£99
ITALY Livigno, Cervinia, Dolomites, Sauze				
Dates (Sat/Sun)	Self Catering	B&B	Catered/HB	Seat Only
20 Dec-11 Jan	£119	£139	£199	£79
17/18 Jan	£149	£159	£219	£79
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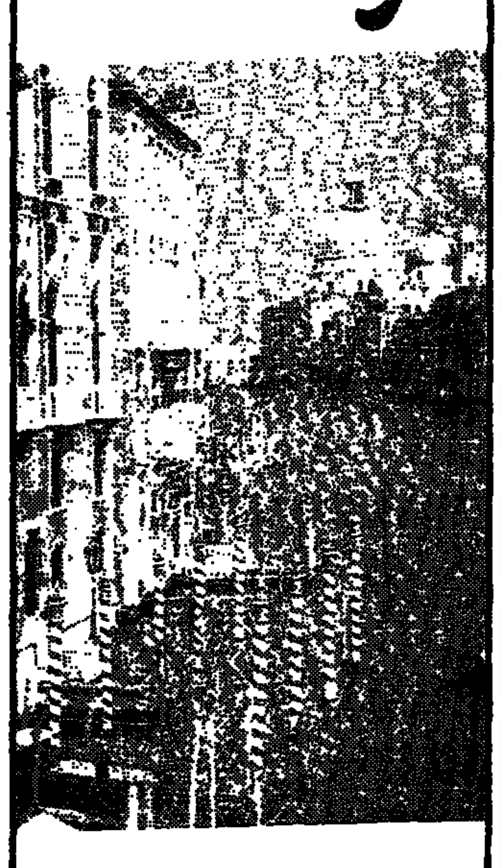

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CHANGING TIMES

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An enchanting hit and myth affair

Luke Martin loved the Chilote islands of Chile, but was not so sure about the local legends

MECKY FOGELING

Fishermen unloading their trawler at the dockside. Many of the Chilote people claim to have encountered the strange creatures which they believe haunt Isla Grande and the Chilote archipelago

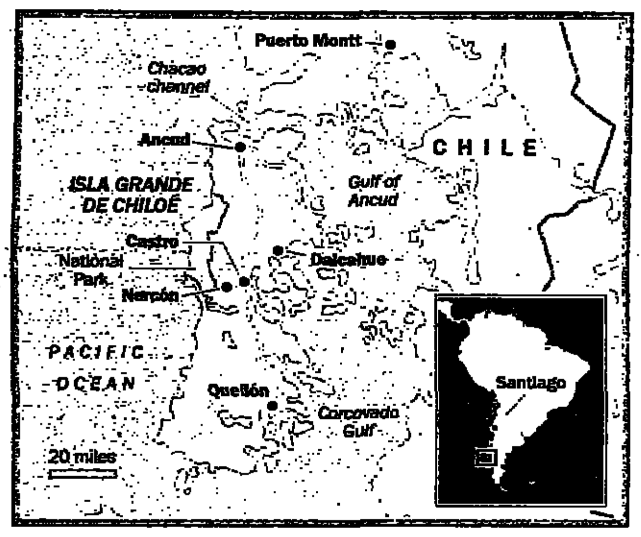
"A lot of what you read about trolls just isn't true," the elderly Chilote writer Oscar Martinez told me as we sat sipping tea in the cramped study of his house overlooking the corrugated-iron cathedral of Castro. "For a start, it's a myth that they wear pointed hats," he said.

Most of the people who cross the Chacao Channel from mainland Chile to the archipelago of Chiloé, some 700 miles south of the capital, Santiago, feel that they are being observed, they told me. And when I arrived on Isla Grande — the largest of the many Chilote islands — after 22 hours on a bus from Santiago and a brief ferry ride, the churning sea and solemn grey sky set the scene perfectly for an experience of the extraordinary.

It wasn't until two hours later, when I reached the island's capital, Castro, that I personally experienced this sensation. But it wasn't the *cuchivilú*, the half-snake, half-pig creature of local mythology whose interest I had aroused; nor, unfortunately, was it the *pincoya*, a beautiful nymph who dances naked on the beaches. It was the swarthy fishermen in grey ponchos, standing in the doorways of their houses after a morning's fishing, whose fixed gazes I was sure followed me as I walked down a street of wooden houses which balanced precariously on stilts over the sea. Perhaps it was a slight suspicion, or perhaps simply curiosity, for few foreigners reach Chiloé.

I had been drawn to Chiloé by Bruce Chatwin's account, in his collected writings *What Am I Doing Here* of a place "celebrated for its black storms and black soil". Latin America's second-biggest island (after Tierra del Fuego), Chiloé is some 20 miles wide and 60 miles deep, with a population of 120,000. It is not, however, an obvious tourist destination. January and February, the height of the southern summer, can be sunny and pleasantly warm, but for much of the year the island is shrouded by sea mists.

During the winter months, when I visited, the island has the same sort of brooding romantic appeal as the Hebrides, but there is a more menacing feel to Chiloé. The strange creatures which are said to haunt Isla Grande and the smaller islands which make up the archipelago are more than just quaint legends



for many of the Chilotes. Chatwin described the people as possessing an imagination which "churns with tormented mythologies". It is an apt description. Ask the scientists how Chiloé became separated from mainland Chile and you will be told about tectonic plate movement and glacial erosion. Ask the older Chilotes the same question and you may be told about the evil serpent Caicaivilú who wanted to incorporate the area into her watery domain; and of Tentenvilú, Caicai's twin and goddess of the earth and fertility, who raised the hills as Caicaivilú flooded the land.

Believe whichever version you want but if you side with the scientists, do it discreetly. Many of the islanders believe they have actually seen strange creatures, such as the *Caleuche*, a ghost ship sailed by wizards which turns into a rock or tree trunk if followed, or a *Camahueto*, a pig-like creature whose single horn is said to possess extraordinary curative powers. My gentle suggestion to Conrado Krause, of the travel agency *Chiloé Tours*, that this might be a ploy to attract visitors, was met with a hurt shrug.

I was based in Castro, the archipelago's largest town, with a population of around 3,500, and the starting point for most of the island's excursions. The extraordinary cathedral is the city's most eye-catching feature: a titanic construction of wood and corrugated-iron, painted bright orange and lilac. Inside, it is just as surreal: the wooden statues, crowned with what looks like human hair, are reminiscent of ancient embalmed bodies in the British Museum. A square-jawed, shop-window mannequin, dressed in priest's robes, adds the finishing touch to this eccentric masterpiece.

A few minutes' walk from the cathedral is a small museum which houses old farming implements and a selection of ancient bones of the diminutive Chonos Indians, the first known inhabitants of the archipelago who were bundled off to reserves on the nearby Chaulinec Islands, a more remote part of the archipelago, by Jesuits in the 18th century. Today's islanders are a mixture of the indigenous Chonos; the Huilliche Indians who came over from mainland Chile; and the Spanish who took possession of the islands in 1567. Elements of all three cultures can be still be identified in the dances, the myths and the language — a variation of Spanish peculiar to the archipelago.

The Hotel Unicornio Azul in Castro, with its spacious, piney rooms and sea views, is the perfect place for poets and honeymooners. The sea, covered by thick grey mists for much of the time I was there, practically laps at the doorstep. In winter, with the rain lashing at the window, the snug rooms offer delicious security from the elements.

A stone's throw from the hotel is the Octavio, a traditional Chilote restaurant which, like many of the seafront houses, is built on stilts over the water. As rainwater dripped into a bucket from the leaky roof and the tape recorder played melancholic Chilote songs, I was served the house speciality, *curanto*. This hearty, truly delicious traditional dish of corn dumplings, sausage and chicken, served in a deep wooden bowl and covered with a mountain of mussels, should be washed down with one of the excellent wines from the mainland.

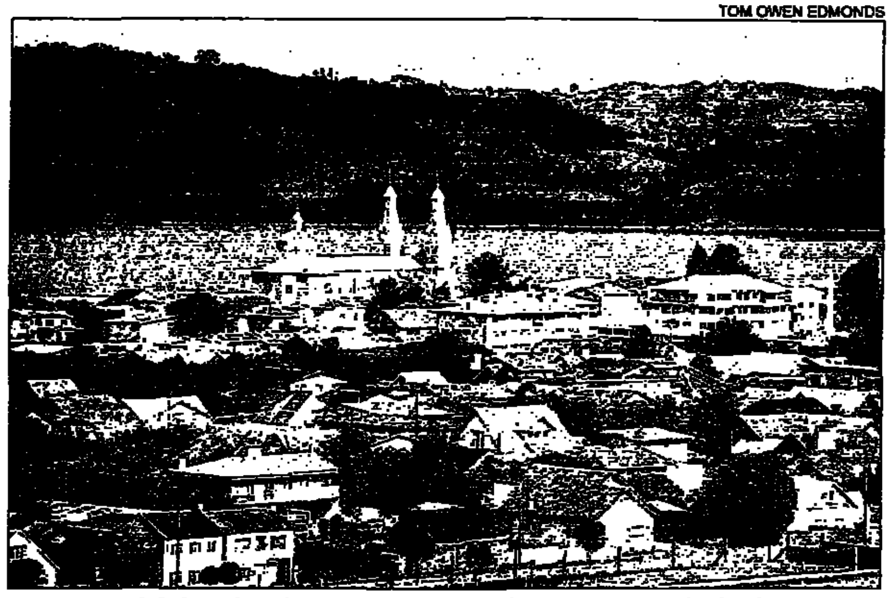
Had I been a honeymooner or a poet, I would have been very happy to stay in the Unicornio Azul for weeks, writing poetry, doing whatever honeymooners do, and strolling between the hotel and the Octavio. I couldn't justify more than two days of eating, reading and gazing out of the window, however, and decided to check out the brochures I had picked up at the tourist information centre.

One of the suggested trips follows the journey made by Charles Darwin, who visited the archipelago in 1835. The route takes in the church of Nercón, the first of a trail of wooden churches built by the Jesuits during the 200 years, from 1598, that the Spaniards were barred from parts of mainland Chile by the bellicose Huilliche Indians.

A little further on from Nercón are the picturesque waterfalls of Llicaldad, where, according to another of the islands' legends, neophyte wizards are said to be baptised. The trip ends in the forests of the National Park — an area once greatly feared and avoided at all costs by west coast sailors. Much of the archipelago is still as wild as it was when Darwin visited, but I couldn't help thinking that today's National Park, with its visitors' centre and litter bins, was a somewhat improbable haunt for the forest-dwelling troll or the evil three-legged *Invunche*, another of the legendary creatures said to live there.

The melancholic allure of Chiloé's fishing hamlets, fiords and lakes is in danger of being lost as the archipelago develops its tourist potential. Ironically, it is the exploitation of the image of magical, faraway Chiloé that is bound to bring with it some of the less magical paraphernalia associated with tourism. But, for the time being, Chiloé is still a truly enchanting place.

The morning I had to catch the bus for the long haul back to Santiago, I dropped in to see Oscar Martinez again. An article had recently appeared in *El Llanquihue*, a mainland newspaper, which quoted Martinez as saying that he had been in touch with a Chilote girl who had been impregnated by a troll. He sensed that I was sceptical: "Come back when the child is born," he said. "Then we'll see if you believe in trolls." Perhaps I will.


TOM OWEN EDMONDS

The brightly-painted cathedral in the capital, Castro, overlooks the sea

CHILOE FACT FILE

■ **Getting there: Luke Martin made his own travel arrangements. Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) arranges trips to Chiloé — a ten-night trip including six-nights all-inclusive in an outside cabin on *Skorpios*, a three-star liner, starts at £1,923, based on two sharing, including flights and two nights in Santiago and Puerto Montt on a B&B basis. Several departures in January and February.**

■ **Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000) also offers a ten-night tour of Chile, staying in four and five-star hotels, that includes a day on Chiloé. The price starts at £2,055 and includes flights from Heathrow, B&B and four lunches — next departure is February 2.**

■ **Last Frontiers (01844 208405) specialises in tailor-made trips to Chile. A two-week tour that takes in Chiloé, staying at four and five-star hotels on a B&B basis, starts at £1,770, flights included.**

■ **Reading: *What Am I Doing Here* by Bruce Chatwin (Picador, £6.99); *Chile Handbook* by Charlie Nurse (Footprint Handbooks, £10.99); *Chile*, part of the *Insight Guide* series (APA Publications, £13.99); *Backpacking in Chile and Argentina* (Bradt Publications, £10.95); *Chile and Easter Island: A Travel Survival Kit* by Wayne Bernhardson (Lonely Planet, £11.99).**

■ **Further information: The Chilean Embassy (0171-580 6392).**

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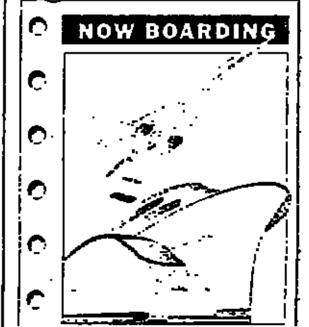

CHILE

■ **Who goes there?** Fishermen, hikers, party animals and wine buyers.

■ **Getting the ball rolling:** The Chilean Embassy, 12 Devonshire St, London W1 (0171-580 6392) also acts as the UK office of the national tourist organisation.

■ **Perfect timing:** October to April is the best time to visit. The far south is warmest between December and March, Santiago is best in spring (Sep-Nov) and autumn (Mar-April).

■ **Way to go:** Flights with Lanchile Airlines (0171-730 2128) are best organised through specialist agencies such as Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108). A JLA ticket London-Madrid-Santiago costs from £580 (£775 mid-December to mid-January). *Trailfinders* (0171-938 3939) offers a return flight in January for £709, Feb-June £589, plus tax. BA (0345 222111) operates the only direct flight to Santiago from Gatwick, costing £1,143 (Dec-Jan); £986 (Feb-May).

■ **Any good packages?** Explore Worldwide (01252 319448) has a new 19-day tour from £1,690, and Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions (0171-381 8638) offers a 21-day Highlights of Chile trip from £3,700. Other operators include Guerba Expeditions (01373 826611).

■ **Dull but essential:** No visa or jabs needed for British passport holders.

■ **Suitcase strategy:** Bring back: Beautiful textiles and jewellery, ponchos, wine . . .

■ **Pound in your pocket:** £1 = 720 pesos. Order in advance. Take dollar traveller cheques.

■ **Turn of phrase:** "Si po", which means "yes, of course".

■ **Big no-nos:** Declaiming on Chilean politics. Going topless on the beach — this is not Brazil.

■ **Nasty surprises:** Chilean *pisco*, tequila's grape-derived cousin in the headache stakes, is served with lemon juice, egg white and sugar.

■ **Not to be missed:** Fiords, glaciers and volcanoes of the south. Chilean wine. In the Atacama desert, there are places where it has *never* rained.

SOPHIE CAMPBELL

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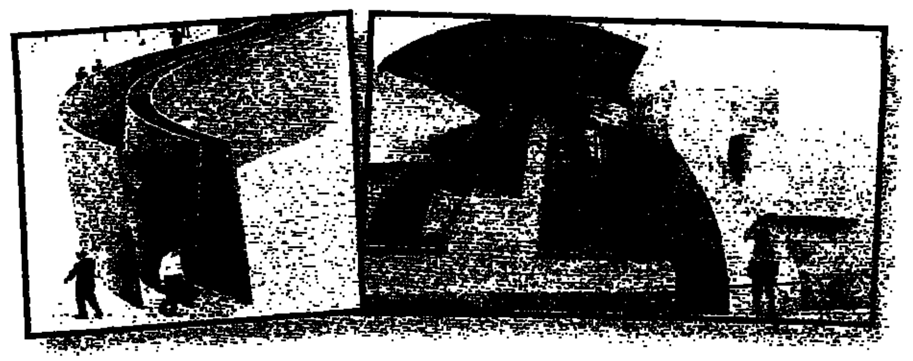
Visit the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao — three nights from£299



Times readers are offered a superb short break to Bilbao, home of the new Guggenheim Museum. American architect Frank Gehry was commissioned to create "the most important building of this century". Many people are already labelling the shimmering structure the eighth wonder of the world. With the Basque country's emerald hills as a backdrop, the unique titanium and limestone building can be seen for miles around. Inside, there are three floors and 18 galleries filled with masterpieces representing almost every genre of art.

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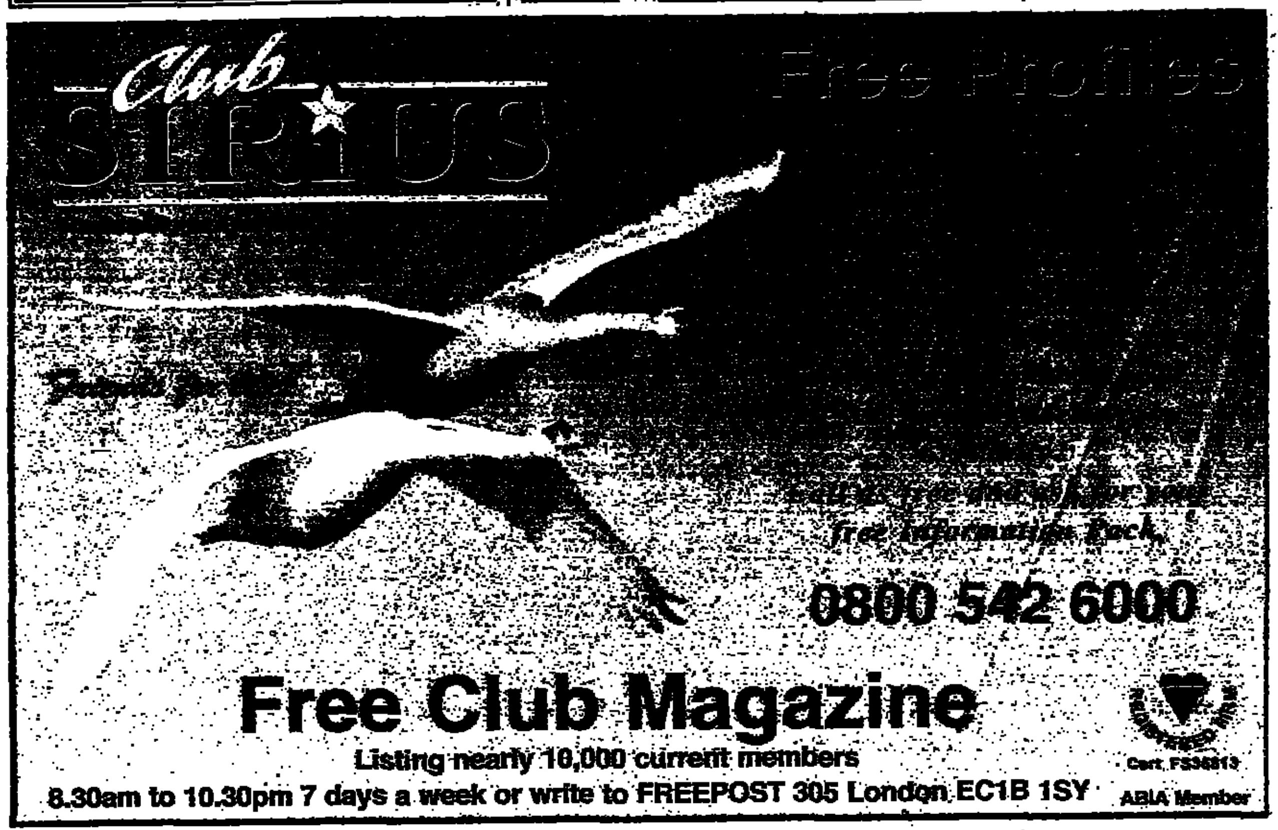

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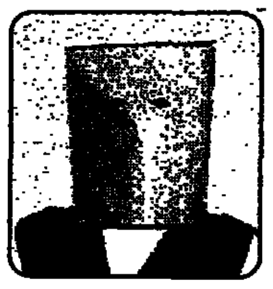

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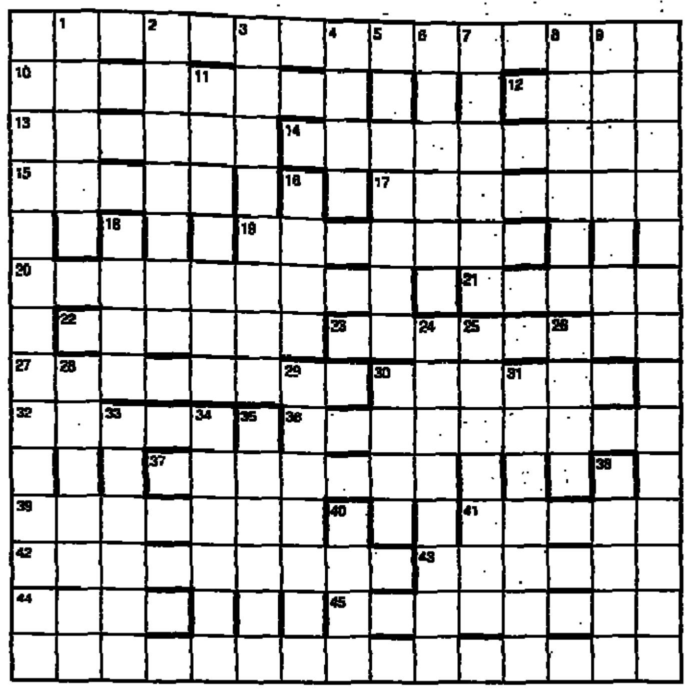
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3440: Hard One? by Calmac



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3440
in association with Waterstone's

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

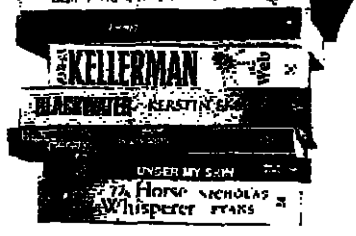
....

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3440, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Monday, December 29.

W

WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10



Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 01225 448595.

A QUOTATION cited in *ODQ* appears (in its original language) in the perimeter squares of the completed puzzle. With the exception of the first and last across and down clues respectively (which are normal), every clue contains a misprint of one letter in its definition part. The correct letters, taken in clue order, spell out a further quotation from the same person (also in its original language), followed by the writer's name. In each quotation one diacritical mark is ignored for the purposes of this puzzle. *Chambers* gives all answers save one proper name.

ACROSS

10 Likely future minister from Nairn, odd sort (8)
12 Bitch about enrolled nurse (4)
13 Type of veal diminutive person wanted (6)
14 Square log possibly having projection which catches careless damsel (9)
15 Small dram for which bill's presented to troopers (5)
17 Bint I've embraced and cuddled (7)
19 One could be seen blaming poor clueing (7)
20 Idiot Mama's abandoned tarts for complicated mince pies! (9)
21 Herring possibly from Sweden, rarely seen (5)
22 Jewry could be so described mostly, originating in East, around Chaldean city (6)
23 Person breaking down rata is nearly as bad (8)
27 Feature in which gumshoe meets Academician — you'll find some put off here (8)
30 Like Timor, say, area almost entirely invaded by protagonists of greater Indonesia (6)
32 Energy shown by bishop before six? (5)
36 One who giggles about Wales being cheaper (9)
37 Singed feathery wreath after initially leaving deposit (7)
39 Coke in Massachusetts? Conservative governor's holding line (7)
41 Managed to keep journalist's fieldwork, consisting of two faxes (5)
42 Cable is in kinks, producing sound associated with an ass (9)
43 Gravel may contain this metallic element (article and note inside) (6)
44 Section of Bill unrepealed, in retrospect now valid (4)
45 Slightest trial involves husband heading for pub (8)

DOWN

1 Regions in Austria gripped by war (5)
2 Bachelor sustained by April love, exercised about youth and its antithesis? (7)
3 Girl in a state, nicknamed Palmette, perhaps? (8)
4 Season over, take responsibility for recession? (4)
5 Forger resident in Roman province offering nearly new tiara — dodgy (7)
6 Headless convict found in Shetland hay (6)
7 Disturbing features of screams as small boy perishes (6)
8 English master entertained by head, amply (6)
9 Risk once more evident in high sierra (Spain) (7)
11 Silly cretin, one living behind sandbags? (7)
16 Tardy hero beginning to excavate beneath mass of coal (4)
18 Cereal disease turning stomachs? (4)
24 Lake poet possibly first to ride in lorry (8)
25 Mary years ago described Papal palace — here's more recent article (7)
26 Society of Engineers securing Irish patent (4)
28 Maori RU fanatic draped in this scarf would be crosser (7)
29 In Manchester numerous postal structures converge here (7)
30 Formidable competitor heartlessly establishing line of mills in Tasmania (4)
31 Starts to go easy on hair dye as well (7)
33 Monty in Moscow, heading off disturbance (6)
34 Slamming foundation working to support register (6)
35 Agrees to work out possible content of gut (6)
38 Pick last of delphinia in Italian city (5)
40 Alpine Club volunteers to produce official minutes (4)

O	P	L	U	M	T	E	S	T	H	U	M	P
D	E	E	N	S	A	N	C	E	A	V	E	R
A	R	E	S	L	A	V	Y	P	R	E	S	U
F	I	F	T	H	S	O	L	E	P	A	I	R
O	S	T	I	T	P	I	L	E	S	E	A	N
P	E	N	C	E	I	E	A	S	T	A	D	D
S	L	E	K	L	C	L	B	T	S	C	Z	U
K	E	A	P	A	C	K	A	O	T	H	E	R
M	A	T	S	B	E	A	N	P	A	D	B	A
O	G	L	E	E	S	T	T	I	M	B	A	L
W	H	A	L	L	S	S	U	I	N	O	D	S
N	O	I	L	L	E	E	S	L	O	W	L	Y
R	A	C	E	S	R	A	T	W	I	L	Y	E

B h 6

Solution and Notes to No 3437 Message by MynoT

2. PLUMe, 5. fouTErS, 9. cHUMP, 12. DEfENSive, 13. dANCE, 14. fAVourER, 15. cAdRES, 16. fLAVour, 18. cY PRES, 20. three FIFTHS, 21. dOLcE, 22. three-PAIR, 23. TIncT, 25. three-PILE, 26. SEdAN, 29. sixPENCE, 32. nEfAST, 34. threADeD, 38. KEnAf, 39. sixPACK, 41. bOTcHER, 42. fouMArTS, 44. BEgAN, 46. sPADix, 48. bOGgLE, 50. fESTive, 51. TIMBALe, 52. HALf-LiveS, 53. SqUIb, 54. threNODeS, 57. beN-OIL, 58. sLEeveEnS, 59. bLOW-fLY, 60. seveRAnCES, 61. kRAfT, 62. WeightILY

The correctly edited message thus reads:
1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3 d6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Bc4 g6 7. Bg5 e5 8. Qb3 Be7 9. Bxf7+ Kf8
The missing finale to the message is: 10. Bh6
which is, of course, checkmate (BH6 also accepted).

The winner is Adam McBride, of Edinburgh, Scotland. The runners up are J. Andrews, of Rayleigh, Essex; N.E. Sharp, of Edinburgh, Scotland; M.G. Sykes of Norwich, Norfolk; R.A. Pinnock of Birmingham, West Midlands; Arthur Hall of Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE MACALLAN International Bridge Pairs is one of the most prestigious events in the calendar. It is held in London in late January. The 32 players for the 1998 event include more than 20 current or past world champions, including two of the French pairs who are the holders of the Olympiad title and the Bermuda Bowl.

This hand was played in the 1997 Macallan. Can you see any defence against Four Hearts?

Dealer South   Game all   IMPs

♠Q 5
♥K J 10
♦J 8 4
♣A K 9 3 2

♠A J 8
♥9
♦A K 10 5 3 2
♣10 8 4

N
W E
S

♠10 9 7 6 4 2
♥Q 8
♦7 6
♣Q J 7

♠K 3
♥A 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦Q 9
♣6 5

S	W	N	E
2H	3D	4H	All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South.
Lead: the ace of diamonds.

This auction occurred at several tables. If you play Weak Twos, Two Hearts is the best choice of opening on the South hand. In general it is preferable to open with a three-bid when you have a seven-card suit, but in this case the suit is too poor and the character of the hand too defensive for the higher pre-empt.

When Nick Nickell was South, Helness (West), started with ace and king of diamonds, and then the ace of spades. East (Geir Helgemo, the world individual champion) played high-low on the diamonds to show a doubleton, and then discouraged with the two on the ace of spades. West now played a third round of diamonds. Do you see the point of that?

East ruffed the jack of diamonds with the eight of hearts. When declarer overruffed with the ace of hearts he had to decide whether to play for the remaining hearts to be 1-1, or for West to have started with Q9. On the basis that as West held length in diamonds he was unlikely to be long in hearts, Nickell played for the drop and made his contract.

But notice that the defence gave him a problem where none would exist if West had played anything other than a diamond at trick four.

Also, notice that if East's hearts had been Q8x, playing the third diamond would have beaten the contract for certain.

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1998, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1 from Wednesday January 21 to Friday January 23. Tickets and information from: The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queen's Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH (0181-878 5844).

● The Times Book of Bridge 1, *by Robert Sheehan, is available from bookshops, or from Batsfords (01376 321276) at £6.99 plus P&P £1.*

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 28

BELLMAN AND TREW
(b) Ranter and Ringwood, Bellman and Trew, hounds in the now politically incorrect hunting song, "D'ye ken John Peel?" By J. W. Graves (1795-1886). The affirmative reply to the question names his hounds.

GUACA
(a) A general term for the objects connected with the religious worship of the Incas, for example, idols, temples or grave ornaments.

GRESSORIAL
(c) Adapted for walking or stepping. Formed for or having the habit of walking. Ambulatory. *The North American*, 1877: "The fore-limbs, small and neat, indicating predominance of prehensile over merely gressorial faculties."

EPILLION
(c) A type of verse popular from Theocritus to Ovid. A narrative poem of between 100 and 600 hexameters, with a hero or heroine.

TWO BRAINS

From page 28

Question 1:
957
+528
——
1485

Question 2:
Marmoset

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

IN THE run-up to Christmas I shall be taking a look at a couple of books which offer aggressive systems first for White, and then for Black, in two of the most popular modern openings, the King's Indian Defence and the Sicilian Defence. For those planning to participate over the new year in the Hastings Congress, these ideas could be valuable point scorers.

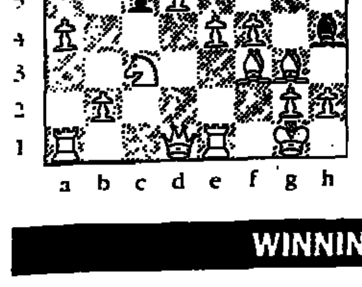
First, a new book by grandmaster Anatoly Vaisser, *Beating the King's Indian and Benoni* (Batsford, £12.99). Not for Vaisser the subtle strategies deployed by such grandmasters of strangulation as Botvinnik, Petrosian and Karpov against the ever popular King's Indian Defence (a favourite of Tal, Fischer and Kasparov). Vaisser's preferred route is to attempt to blast this defence, and its close relative the Benoni, right from the board with an aggressive on-rush of White's central pawns from the very start of the game. This week's encounter shows Vaisser's ideas in action. A typical component of the attack is the creation of a far-flung passed d-pawn for White, as the logical outcome of White's seething forest of marching central pawns.

White: Anatoly Vaisser; Black: Ilya Smirin
PCA (rapidplay) Moscow 1996
King's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6
5 f4 0-0 6 Nf3 c5
7 d5 e6 8 Be2 exd5
9 cxd5 Bg4 10 0-0 Nbd7
11 Re1 Ne8!?

An unusual idea in this position. More common is 11 ... Re8.

12 a4 a6 13 Be3 Nc7
14 Bf2 Rb8 15 Bh4 Bf6
16 Bg3 Bxf3 17 Bxf3 Bh4?



Black should not permit e4-e5. It was necessary to play 17 ... Bd4+! 18 Kh1 Re8 with counterplay.

18 e5! Bxg3 19 hxg3 dxe5
20 fxe5 Qg5 21 Ne4 Qxe5
22 Nxc5 Qd6 23 Ne4

White's pawn sacrifice to activate the d-pawn is the key to this position.

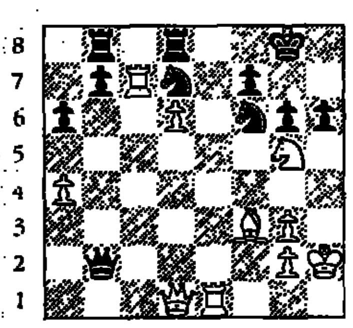
23 ... Qb6+ 24 Kh2 Qxb2
25 Rc1 Ne8 26 d6

At last Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane.

26 ... Nef6
27 Rc7 Rfd8 28 Ng5!

Preparing a decisive piece sacrifice.

28 ... h6



29 Re2!

First driving away Black's queen ...

29 ... Qb4

and now giving up the knight!

30 Nxf7! Kxf7 31 Re7+ Kg8

31 ... Kf8 changes nothing. White plays 32 Qd3 and after both 32 ... Ng4+ 33 Bxg4 Qxg4 34 Qc3 Qh5+ 35 Kg1 Qd1+ 36 Kf2 Ne5 37 Rxe5 and 32 ... Ng8 33 Qxg6! Nxe7 34 Qxh6+ Kf7 35 Bh5+ Kg8 36 Qe6+ Kh8 37 dxe7 White wins.

32 Qd3 Ng4+

32 ... Nf8 does not help: 33 Rg7+ Kh8 34 Qe3 g5 35 Qe7 Qd4 36 Rg6 Ng8 37 Qf7 Nd7 38 Be4 with mate in two.

33 Bxg4 Qxg4 34 Qb3+
Black resigns

The Fide version of the world championship is now in progress in Groningen, Holland. Kasparov has refused to play under the new system, a 100-player knockout, stating that "the format flies directly in the face of tradition and trivialises the world title".

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

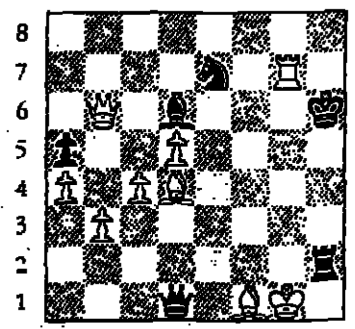
Black to play. This position is from the game Ni Hua - Wang Pin, Beijing 1997.

Despite the dangers to his own king, Black forced a quick checkmate. Can you see how?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Bb7

Last week's winner was G. Laurence, of Macclesfield, Cheshire.



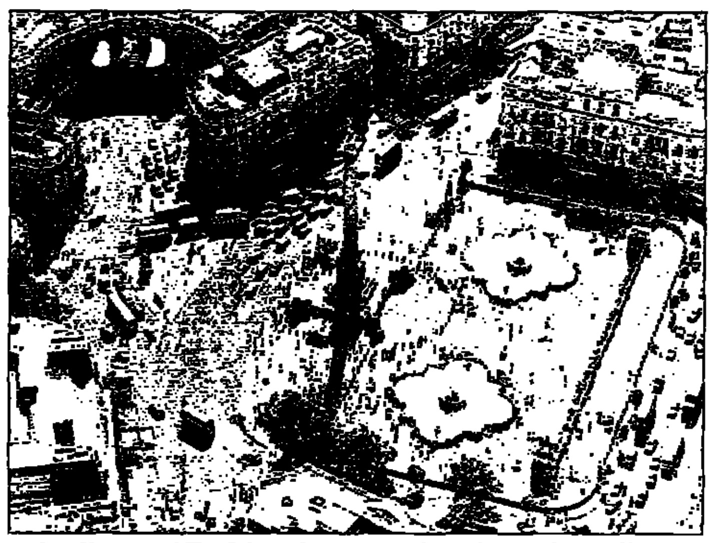
COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

FANCY a trip to London this weekend? Then head to the **Wired Whitehall** site, a "prototype virtual urban information system" being developed by the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at University College London. Wired Whitehall (http://www.casa.ucl.ac.uk/vuis/) is a 3D tour of London's landmarks.

You can stroll around Covent Garden, Leicester and Trafalgar Squares, Whitehall, Horse Guards Parade, Buckingham Palace and Parliament Square. Eventually you will also be able to walk into a clutch of shops, hotels and restaurants to complete the experience.

To run the demo you will need to download a free small programme, Jutvision Plug-in 3.0, by following the clear instructions given. You can then view scenes in a smaller screen which rotate through 360 degrees. Click and hold both mouse buttons to zoom into the picture and get the illusion of moving around in it — until it falls wildly out of focus. Within the scenes, some hotlinks already work. Click on the Swiss Centre in Leicester Square and you'll be whisked away to a Switzerland briefing site. Even on slower machines the results are impressive.


Stroll around Trafalgar Square on the Wired Whitehall site

CONGRATULATIONS to our two winners of **Cyberspace Thirty-Eight**, who win a day to remember at Brand's Hatch race track. Readers were asked to come up with a television advert for an imaginary, if unlikely, Skoda sports car. David Nicholds of Paddock Wood, Kent, sold his Skoda around a racing housewife. She dreams she has won a Brand's Hatch race in her speedy Skoda and, when she wakes up, a large silver cup on the sideboard suggests this was no dream. She leaves the house to be greeted by cheers from friends and neighbours surrounding her Skoda which she drives off to the winning slogan "A wolf in sheep's clothing!".

David Mendel of Ealing, west London, would enlist Trevor McDonald to front his Skoda spectacular. The newsreader is standing in the main hall at the Science Museum in front of various cars and aircraft. He rattles off man's monumental achievements in the evolution of transport, incorporating Rudolf Diesel's patenting of the internal combustion engine, the Wright brothers' first sustained flight in 1903, the first moonwalk in 1969 and, a few weeks ago, *Thrust* breaking the land-speed record.

The picture changes to the race-track and the faint sound of a sports engine getting nearer. McDonald adds: "Now, as the century draws to a close, comes an achievement no less remarkable, no less historic and breathtaking in its accomplishment: the new Skoda sports car. A giant leap in transport for mankind."

Congratulations to our two winners who, with a guest each, will spend a day at the Brand's Hatch circuit putting a BMW series 3 and a single-seater racing car through their paces.

Along with six runners up they will also receive PC copies of Codemaster's TOCA Touring Car Championship.

AND FINALLY, this is the last chance to win £500 worth of gaming goodies from Tiger Electronics in **Cyberspace Thirty-Nine**, which closes on Tuesday. We have two game stacks to be won, topped with a "game.com" handheld console, which takes miniature game cartridges and can even be used as a basic link to the Internet.

Included in the treasure chests are a child's laptop computer, junior electronic organiser, Batman & Robin walkie talkies, Hercules and Lost World LCD games, a pair of Laser Tag zappers, voice changers and a Giga Pet.

Entering the competition is very easy. Just send us your favourite seasonal joke. Decent rib-ticklers only, please, and just one per household, should be clearly written and submitted on a postcard to: Cyberspace Thirty-Nine, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

You may also e-mail your jokes, clearly marked Cyberspace Thirty-Nine, to cyber@dircon.co.uk. Please include your name, age, address and telephone number. Normal *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

NEW SOFTWARE

SHE is old and wears slack stockings over legs so bowed you could drive a herd of cattle through them. She is also completely batty. Granny is the first character you come across in Telstar's zany adventure **Dementia**. This is a madcap romp similar in feel to the hugely popular Sam and Max series, with crazy characters taking toon-style abuse in a large, colourful animated 3D world. Unlikely things happen to stretch, squeeze and flatten the characters, like the giant elephant's foot which comes crushing down on Granny when she pops into the bedroom.

The storyline involves the sadistic Crotony family, which delights in bringing terror to defenceless animals on which they experiment. Now one of the animals has had enough and has set out to seek revenge. You must unravel the ensuing chaos by guiding granny.

This is a point-and-click adventure, with hotspots and visual rewards galore, Dementia is a good-looking product loaded in anarchic surrealism. You encounter an endless stream of hurdles stopping you from progressing to the next scene, from mind-boggling puzzles and riddles to quirky arcade-style games. Comes on five Windows 95 CD-Roms.

● **Verdict: 7 out of 10. Wacky animated adventures in a surreal setting, £39.99.**

Dementia is a madcap romp

MARIA CALLAS, one of the world's greatest opera singers, gets the interactive treatment in **Callas Tosca**, based around the EMI Classics range. Deemed the quintessential diva, her personal life was often a tragedy of operatic proportions — as is this CD-Rom.

This package is based around the complete mono audio recording of Puccini's opera, which Callas performed in 1953 at La Scala in Milan. There is also a gallery of Callas photographs and images, some taken from the production of Tosca staged at Covent Garden. You can call up an on-screen Italian libretto of the opera, with English translations, as well as a synopsis. The discography of Callas recordings includes a selection of audio and video footage extracts. But the programme, like the diva's own private life, is troubled.

The CD-Rom is available for either Mac or PC and the latter version refused to play properly no matter what. The first glaring error crops up in the installation instructions, which tell you to type "Tosca" to load the title. In fact, you have to type "Callas". The programme requires the monitor to be set to 256-colours yet still failed to respond correctly. The resultant images were messy and any text quite unreadable. Only the audio tracks and video sequences ran smoothly and these entries were thoroughly enjoyable and almost, but not quite, worth the operating hassles.

● **Verdict: 5 out of 10. Flaky Maria Callas archive, £29.99.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 138

I	N	S	U	M	■	C	U	R	I	O	S	I	T	Y	K	I	L	L	E	D	T	H	E	C	A	T
S	■	T	■	A	■	H	■	I	■	R	■	N	■	O	■	D	■	I	■	E	■	I	■	H	■	A
A	R	R	A	N	G	I	N	G	■	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	■	M	O	N	T	B	L	A	N	C
M	■	U	■	I	■	L	■	O	■	H	■	O	■	R	■	A	■	E	■	I	■	E	■	L	■	E
B	A	C	K	P	E	D	A	L	L	I	N	G	■	S	E	L	F	R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	T
A	■	K	■	L	■	■	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	S	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	N	■	C	■	■
R	O	O	T	E	D	O	U	T	■	M	A	S	A	I	■	S	E	C	R	E	T	A	G	E	N	T
D	■	U	■	■	■	L	■	T	■	■	■	H	■	N	■	A	■	K	■	X	■	T	■	■	■	H
K	I	T	S	C	H	Y	■	O	L	I	G	A	R	C	H	I	C	■	O	P	T	I	M	I	S	E
I	■	■	■	R	■	M	■	■	■	N	■	G	■	E	■	L	■	T	■	A	■	N	■	M	■	S
N	I	E	C	E	■	P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	P	I	G	E	O	N	■	G	A	M	U	T
G	■	V	■	S	■	I	■	I	■	V	■	Y	■	E	■	N	■	S	■	S	■	■	■	E	■	A
D	E	A	D	S	E	A	F	R	U	I	T	■	F	L	I	G	H	T	R	E	C	O	R	D	E	R
O	■	L	■	E	■	■	■	O	■	T	■	U	■	Y	■	O	■	U	■	■	■	N	■	I	■	S
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	C	H	A	I	N	S	■	T	R	A	D	I	N	G	S	T	A	M	P
B	■	A	■	■	■	M	■	C	■	B	■	D	■	O	■	D	■	O	■	O	■	I	■	T	■	A
R	A	T	A	N	■	P	R	O	X	I	M	E	A	C	C	E	S	S	I	T	■	G	R	E	E	N
U	■	E	■	O	■	O	■	S	■	L	■	R	■	T	■	R	■	■	■	E	■	H	■	■	■	G
N	O	S	I	N	E	S	S	■	F	I	R	E	R	A	I	S	E	R	■	L	A	T	E	R	A	L
E	■	■	■	C	■	E	■	C	■	T	■	S	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	E
L	I	F	E	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	■	T	A	T	U	M	■	G	A	T	E	S	H	E	A	D
■	■	I	■	A	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	A	■	R	■	■	■	U	■	N	■	B
P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L	O	G	R	A	M	■	H	E	N	L	E	Y	R	E	G	A	T	T	A
E	■	E	■	A	■	T	■	S	■	E	■	A	■	A	■	D	■	T	■	U	■	G	■	R	■	N
S	T	A	U	N	C	H	E	S	■	C	A	T	A	L	P	A	■	F	A	L	S	E	D	A	W	N
O	■	R	■	C	■	I	■	A	■	U	■	E	■	V	■	L	■	U	■	E	■	S	■	N	■	E
S	A	M	U	E	L	C	O	L	E	R	I	D	G	E	T	A	Y	L	O	R	■	T	U	T	O	R

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD200, worth £125, is Daphne Mackenzie, of Wootton Under Edge, Glos.

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners. The Times, *Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN*

Q **A piece in today's *Times* shows World Dance Sport Champions Marcus and Karen Hilton, who were each awarded an *MBE this year*. My question is how should one address or refer to this couple? Surely "Marcus and Karen *Hilton MBE" can't* be right. P.S. Marcus and Karen are married to each other.** — John Fisher, London SE27.

A The couple should be referred to as Mr Marcus Hilton MBE and Mrs Marcus Hilton MBE.

Q **My friend and I are both poor music students who regularly play at private parties hosted by an extremely wealthy woman. Not only does she pay less than the going rate but she also does not offer us food or drink. We do not want to refuse this work as we need the money but would tactfully like to encourage her to treat us more respectfully.** — Name and address withheld.

A Sentiments like yours are often most tactfully expressed via a *third* party. So, ask a friend to act as a kind of agent. All *she or he has* to do is to ring up your rich client and say: "*The girls are getting* increasingly busy and have asked me to help *organise their* fees and conditions and so forth." Don't be afraid that such actions might frighten your client off: they should have quite the opposite effect.

Q **Could you make a stand against the Americanisation of English pudding into "dessert"? Pretentious and inaccurate: dessert, as everyone should surely be reminded by Christmas dinner, is nuts, raisins, tangerines and so on, and comes *after* pudding. You should need neither a spoon nor a fork.** — Anne Kiggell, Pangbourne, Berkshire.

A My column throws its full weight behind your campaign. I look forward to enjoying both quite different courses in abundance this Christmas.

Q **It now seems common practice never to find a water jug or glasses on the table at functions. I object to having to buy bottled water for around 85p per glass when pure water comes out of my own tap for less than 1p for the same amount. Will I be out of order if I ask for, or insist on, plain water at my monthly club luncheon date?** — George Oldknow, Derby.

A Absolutely not.

Q **Should one use the man's initial or first name when addressing a married lady, or is *this old fashioned and not PC?* Another point is how does one address an "out-ed" gay couple of either sex?** — R.D. Allum, Kingsthorne, Hereford.

A At the risk of inflaming feminist fires across the nation I would recommend that a man's initial or first name should still be used when addressing a married woman. Using her own *name implies she is a divorcée.* Concerning lesbian couples I am not keen on "The Misses" as this *suggests a blood bond rather than* a romantic attachment, and would recommend that they should be styled *as Miss* Anne Brown *and* Miss Eve Smith. Similarly, two cohabiting gay men could be Mr Joe Brown and Mr John Smith. Only if the state decides to recognise gay marriage will a joint prefix become appropriate.

Q **I avoid many social events because I hardly ever drink alcohol. How can I deal with people who question my choice *without showing my* annoyance, when they ask if I am sure that I *only want a soft drink?* I do not want to have to justify this choice with *false excuses.*** — Patrick Fisher, Bromsgrove, Worcs.

A It is extraordinary how in British society not drinking alcohol is still considered slightly suspect, and this is why people like yourself have to justify their requests for non-alcoholic drinks. The secret is to sound really excited about the prospect of a soft drink rather than appearing apologetic, such as by saying: "I'd absolutely love a glass of water." Such brisk optimism will dispel any lingering doubts your host might have.

Q **It is traditional for a woman to return her engagement ring if her forthcoming marriage is called off but what is the form for a divorcée, particularly in the case of family rings?** — M.J.W. London W8.

A Once married, the engagement ring belongs to the wife, and thus it is usual for her to keep it. However, in the case of an ancestral engagement ring, there is a moral obligation to return it to the family of origin. One woman showed great manners and *savoir faire* in this area recently when, having divorced her husband of five years (she had no daughter from this marriage), returned the engagement ring to her former mother-in-law with the accompanying note: "It is with sadness that I return this ring. Over the last few years it has brought me great joy as well as much pain. Although I love its beauty, it belongs in your family rather than on my hand." How about that for style?

John Morgan is associate editor of GQ magazine.

DAN BLAIR
PILOT FFOR THE FFORESEEABLE FFUTURE
THE MEKON CONTEMPLATES HIS FUTURE...
IT'S NOT EASY BEING THE MOST REVILED CREATURE IN THE UNIVERSE...
IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE...
AND A BRAND NEW PUBLIC FACE...
13 xii 97
Peter Brookes

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BELLMAN AND TREW
- a. Solicitors in Galsworthy
- b. Lakeland hounds
- c. Olympic oarsmen

GUACA
- a. *Religious objects*
- b. Bird droppings
- c. Exudation from tropical plants

GRESSORIAL
- a. An Oxford college function
- b. Memorial musical composition
- c. Ambulatory

EPILLION
- a. Greek punctuation mark
- b. A motor cycle design
- c. Literary poetic form

Answers on page 27

TWO BRAINS

THE frontiers of memory records are being constantly pushed back. It may seem amazing to be able to memorise 30 packs of shuffled cards but this was the world record in 1989, and it has been smashed several times since. The current world record is held by Dominic O'Brien, who committed one error in memorising 40 packs totalling 2,080 cards.

Question 1:
What numbers can replace these letters (no 0 or 3)?

$$\begin{array}{r} ABC \\ +\ \underline{BDG} \\ EFGB \end{array}$$

Question 2:
What animal can be formed by using all of these letters?
a, e, m, m, o, r, s, t

Answers on page 27 R.K.

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

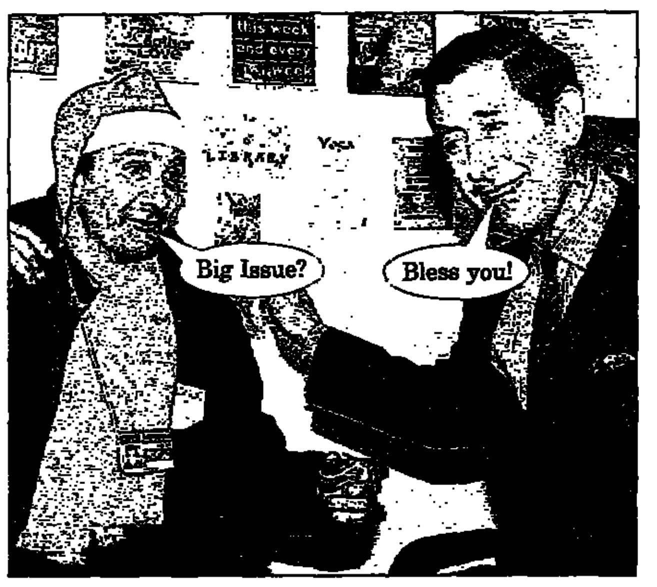
My reflections on clueing will continue, but today I want to address some points about words used in recent crosswords. A couple of correspondents have echoed Macaulay, who was given to remarks such as "Every schoolboy knows who imprisoned Montezuma and who strangled Atahualpa". I am told that every schoolboy knows that "ilk" means "place", and does not mean "class". I dispute, not only that every schoolboy (or, indeed, schoolgirl) knows this, but also that it is true. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary*'s first definition of "ilk" is "a family, class, sort, or kind". Likewise, I am prepared to wager that few schoolchildren know that the gerund has no plural. "Referendum", according to a former Referendum Party candidate, is not a gerundive but a gerund, and therefore "referenda" is wrong. Again, I call to the stand the harmless drudges of Oxford, who not only allow "referenda" *but describe* "referendum" as "gerund or gerundive of *referre*".

Another writer pointed out that a bench-mark *is a surveyor's* mark to record height and claimed that it is journalese to define *it as* "a standard", *since it* is mean sea level that is the standard. However, the dictionaries *I have consulted confirm* that the term can be used in a general sense to mean "standard" and that, *in the* technical sense, the bench-mark acts as a reference point.

It should be clear by now that the crossword team neither claims nor exhibits omniscience. *Rather, that exists in distributed* form among our thousands of solvers, and I trust that they collectively will *continue to bring* errors and inaccuracies to our attention. Letters about Crossword Two *and Jumbos should* be addressed to Richard Browne and Mike Laws, respectively. For *the Listener puzzle,* Mike Rich deals with general correspondence and Ross Beresford *with puzzle submissions.*

Answer for last week's clue: *proverb.*

PICTURE LINE


Big Issue?
Bless you!

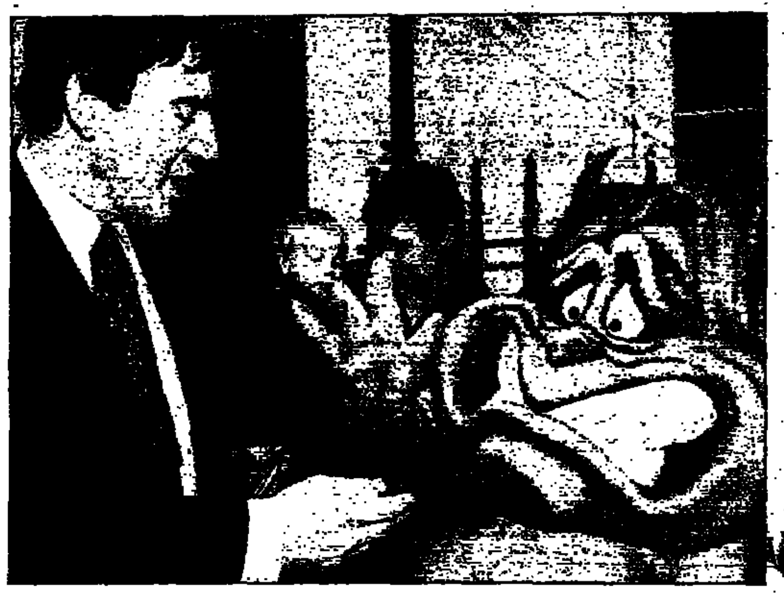
READERS are invited to suggest what the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and *Pain*, a character from the Disney film *Hercules*, might be saying to one another.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "*speech bubble*" *suggestions* on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

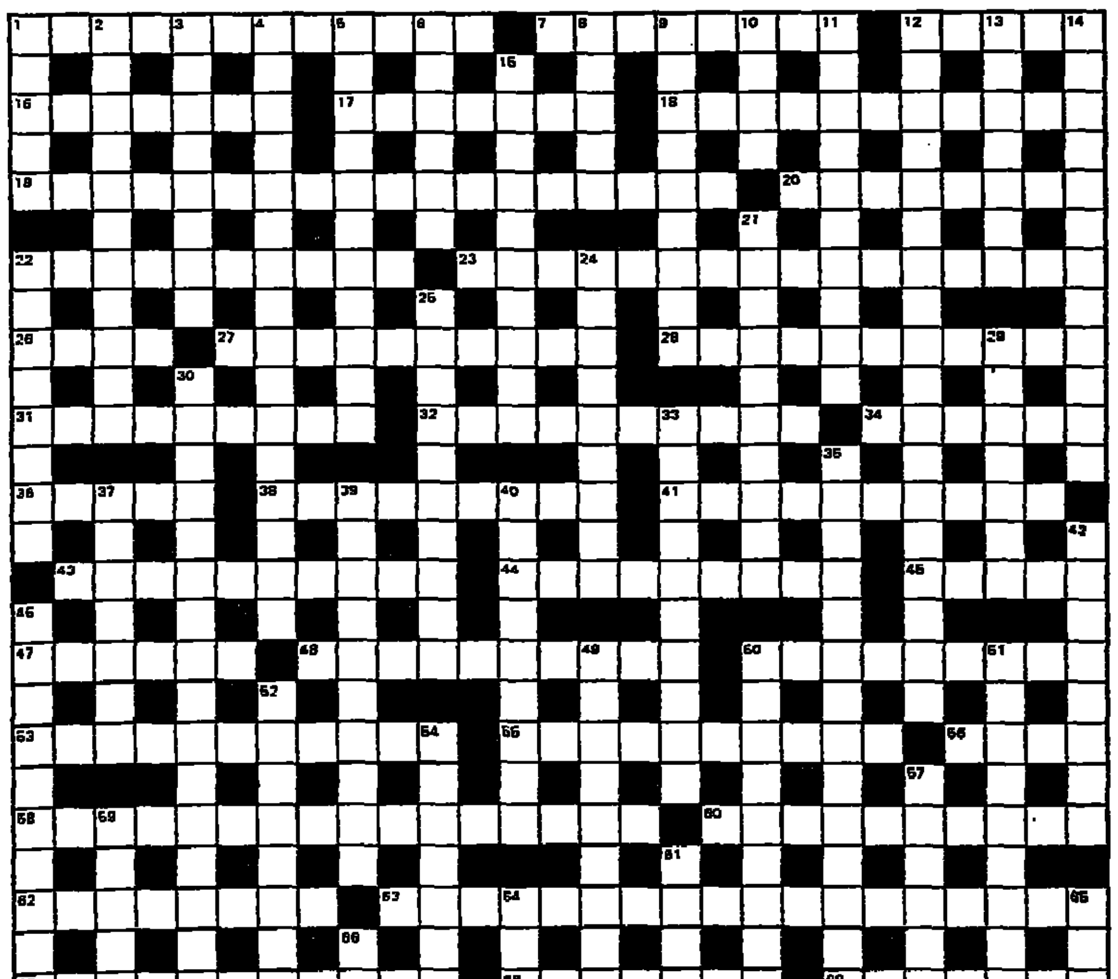
The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 17.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by John Griffiths, of *Langton Herring, Dorset.*



JUMBO CROSSWORD 140

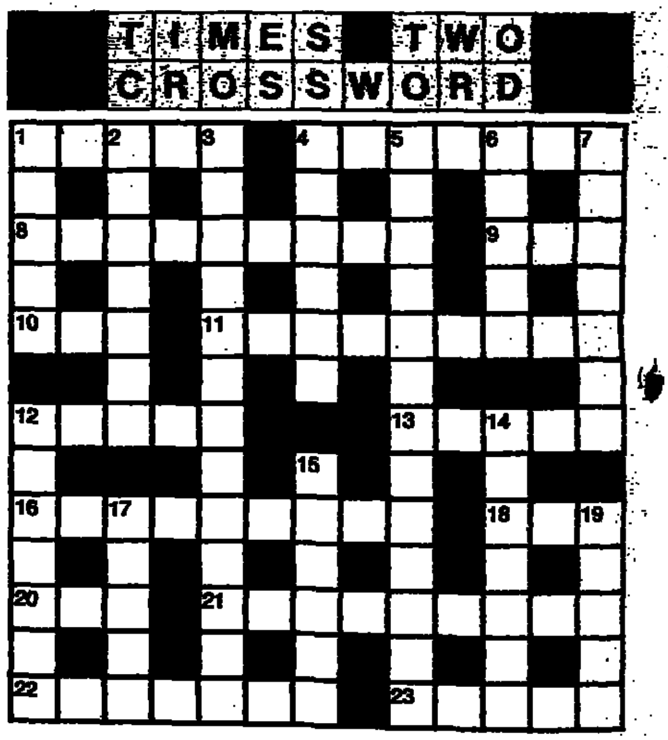
The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 140, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, December 18. The name of the winner will be published on Saturday, December 27.



NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
....
.... POSTCODE ....

ACROSS
- 1 A way to take in a circus, when in town? (6,6)
- 7 I could get first of two, almost having £1,000 to secure it (8)
- 12 What is 67 and 747? (5)
- 16 Escaped, if losing 5-0, given help? (7)
- 17 Politican catches egg thrown over clothes (7)
- 18 *Admire Green's agitation* becoming a force in France (11)
- 19 Watch out — always prepare potatoes carefully (4,4,4,6)
- 20 Look into cuts, manufacturing footwear (8)
- 22 Specifying a figure — around 50p, basically? (10)
- 23 Way part of forces confined most of Irish town, in the event (6,10)
- 26 *Acts according to the rules* (4)
- 27 Demolished the temple, to accommodate new plant (4-6)
- 28 Person, feeble and cowardly, in the shade (5,6)
- 31 Preserve what's acquired, with new alarm installed (9)
- 32 Insane chief has lasting effect on the island (10)
- 34 A very long way from being *standard dry wine* (6)
- 36 I'll get up part of the staircase (5)
- 38 No longer viable, having sold all fruit? (3,2,4)
- 41 Original versions of two numbers, both lacking character somewhere (10)
- 43 *Production of opera, sir? I'm there* at the outset (10)
- 44 Such a forecast has far-reaching implications (4-5)
- 45 A wicket remains flooded (5)
- 47 Join in forward thrust, finally going hard (6)
- 48 Heated situation, where copper could become involved (7-3)
- 50 Poem went smoothly, belonging to *short-lived fashion,* on reflection (9)
- 53 Rood's primarily of avail when recollecting fateful journey (3,8)
- 55 *Larks about in assembly? (10)*
- 56 Friend embraces wife — here's the catch! (4)
- 58 I'll abandon cute hesitation with skilled workers in scientfic study (7,9)
- 60 Am I unable to celebrate about support for bridge? (10)
- 62 One has a few to test for equality of measure (8)
- 63 *Make proposal* to lift bread shortage, and put in a lot of effort (4,6,3,5)
- 67 *Such a poser as this may be thick-*skinned (11)
- 68 Very keen, having trendy past, perhaps (7)
- 69 One is allowed to include German representations (7)
- 70 Making rapid progress in turnover of joke books (3-2)
- 71 National Theatre to be taken over, and become dull (8)
- 72 Lose next bet, being wrong about English insect (6,6)

DOWN
- 1 Such mountains are in Australia and Arkansas (5)
- 2 *Revolutionary idea, following* reduced pressure on one in debt (6,5)
- 3 A hoard I'm reorganising for amateur broadcaster (5,3)
- 4 Harboured design to stage grand entertainment? (6,5,5)
- 5 Bad egg found in a barrel? (6,5)
- 6 New winger discovered in weird-sounding situation (6)
- 8 One may be versed in the concept of "horses for courses" (5)
- 9 Snoopy relative lodged in this *sheltered accommodation?* (3,6)
- 10 Taking time off to tease another relative? (4)
- 11 Made of very hard material, a piece can fade on the outside (10)
- 12 Embrace latest cause, and suddenly attack old Greek? Affected-sounding monster! (4,2,3,9)
- 13 High-ranking officer spoils little *Prince* (7)
- 14 Broach the port, for light repast (4,8)
- 15 It's hard to pull out, as convictions may be long-term (4-6)
- 21 Penetrating material sent up I mean to change (10)
- 22 Stamp printed in gold, indicating first class (8)
- 24 Description of staunch *environmentalist in a tree?* (9)
- 25 Stop farmer breaking up subsoil (10)
- 29 US city (Southern California) — a prime place for singers and musicians (2,5)
- 30 Reasonable chance it's just a *snide* remark from parliamentarian (4,5,2,3,4)
- 33 National conglomerate takes note, supporting pastures new (10)
- 35 Disputed point? See enemy swell up, over assertion (4,2,10)
- 37 Island Sparta must have revolutionised (7)
- 39 Ship's protection, half of it repaired, finished on time (7-3)
- 40 Once very powerful, sunk into oblivion? (9)
- 42 One may produce a blow for the *artist* (8)
- 46 Shattered quiet pause round university with very panicked state (5,3,4)
- 49 Can't help fussing about SF film, as a medium for cryptic messages (10)
- 50 Action taken by passengers finally coming off? (11)
- 51 Meaning to take notice very shortly? Perhaps (11)
- 52 Right doctor managed to get in beds for divers (10)
- 54 A quiet burrower heads a new museum (9)
- 57 Time taken supporting a legal right in foreign state (8)
- 59 Scribbled on a page, demonstrating moon's furthest point (7)
- 61 Show testimony to be heartless (6)
- 64 Be second to block the way out (5)
- 65 See old husband turn up — it was on the cards he'd write (5)
- 66 Eager to be uplifted, see her in 29? (4)



No 1276

ACROSS
- 1 Frighten off (5)
- 4 Tedious activity; confusion (7)
- 8 Of projectile flight (9)
- 9 Decay; nonsense (3)
- 10 A flap; staff officer collar insignia (3)
- 11 Private conversation (4-1-4)
- 12 Personal manner; particular pattern (5)
- 13 Scope, bounds (5)
- 16 Uncivilised, uncouth (9)
- 18 Part of fish; sounds like *Trollope's Phineas* (3)
- 20 Hit lightly; sounds like *enfold* (3)
- 21 Eugene —, 19C Fr. painter (9)
- 22 Body hypersensitivity (7)
- 23 Flax fabric (5)

DOWN
- 1 Record of sum owed (5)
- 2 Big chest of drawers (7)
- 3 Visit pantry for snack (4,3,6)
- 4 Vegetable; tricky business when hot (6)
- 5 Unenthusiastic (13)
- 6 Elan, *spirit* (5)
- 7 Go back; a den (7)
- 12 East Russia, used for exile (7)
- 14 Clown ... (7)
- 15 ... clown's garb (6)
- 17 Drive back (attack) (5)
- 19 US president, resigned 1974 (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1275

ACROSS: 1 Antique 5 Damp 9 Ladle 10 Conquer 11 Clotted cream 12 Gordon 13 Seabed 16 Pigs might fly 19 Enlarge 20 Brill 21 Send 22 Shelley

DOWN: 1 Ally 2 Tiddler 3 Question mark 4 Eschew 6 Abuse 7 Pyramid 8 Unacceptable 12 Gophers 14 Balliol 15 Egress 17 Galen 18 Clay

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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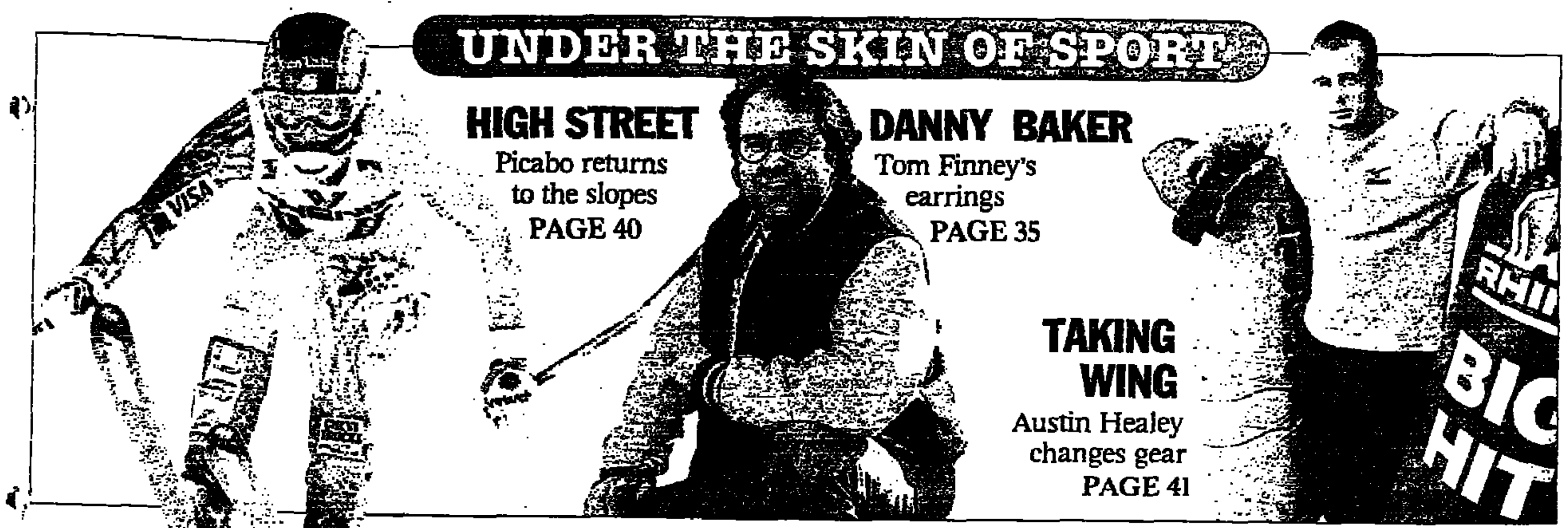

WEEKEND MONEY
House prices: you ain't seen nothing yet
PAGE 64

go
The cars you can't buy for Christmas
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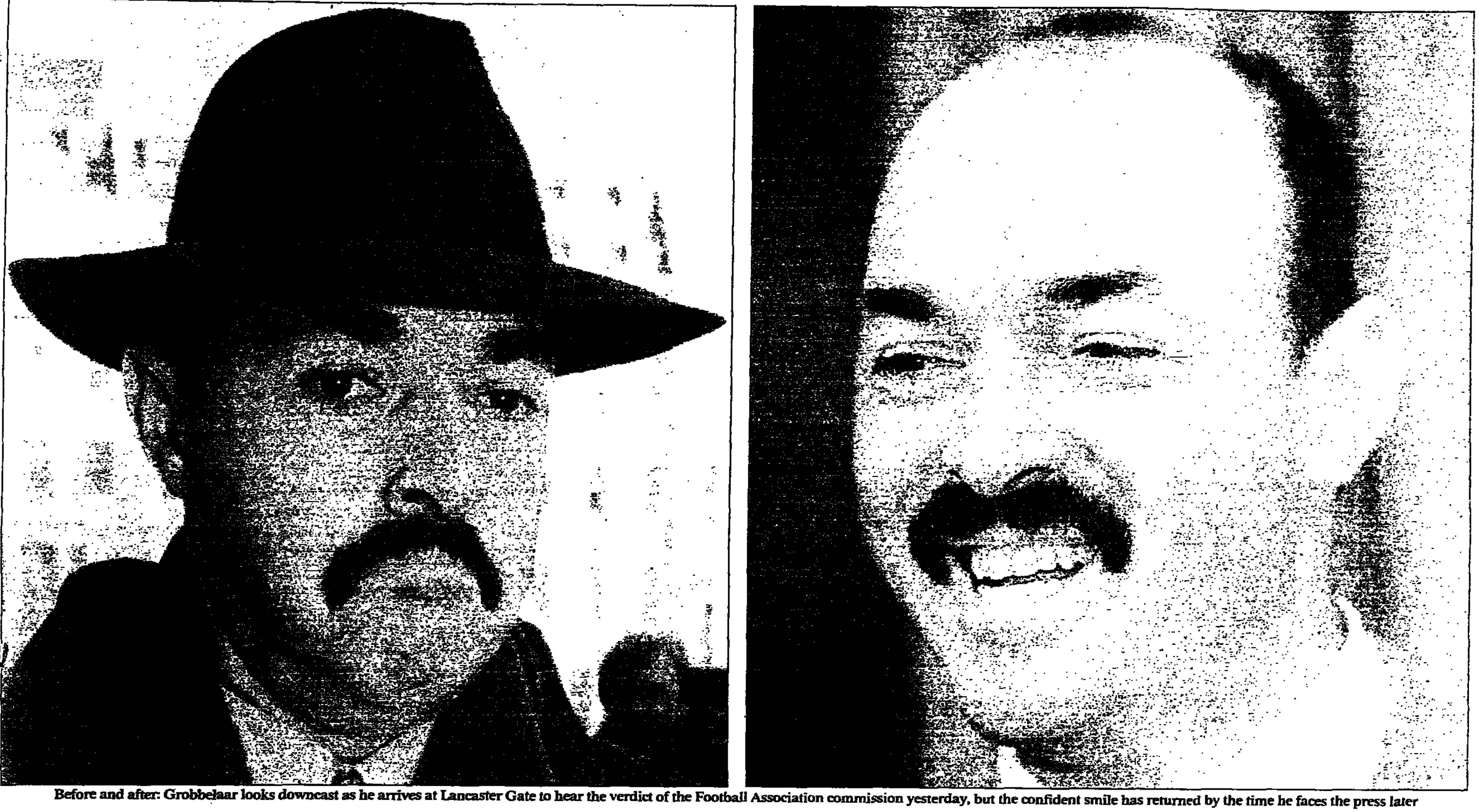
THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT

DECEMBER 13 1997

HAT TRICK: DAY OF MIXED EMOTIONS FOR G



Before and after: Grobbelaar looks downcast as he arrives at Lancaster Gate to hear the verdict of the Football Association commission yesterday, but the confident smile has returned by the time he faces the press later

FA blows the final whistle

BY JOHN GOODBODY

FOOTBALL'S longest and most wide-reaching controversy ended yesterday when Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were each given a suspended six-month suspension and a £10,000 fine for misconduct after admitting that they had tried to help a Far East betting syndicate to forecast the results of matches.

In November 1994, Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, stood on the steps at Lancaster Gate and received a dossier of allegations from journalists of *The Sun*.

Just over three years later, Grobbelaar, 39, the Zimbabwe and former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, stood on the same steps, and prepared to try to put the past behind him. Wearing a matching russet-coloured hat and mackintosh, he posed for a photograph with a building-site worker and then strode away to resume his flamboyant career.

Segers, 36, the former Wimbledon goalkeeper, was training yesterday with Wolverhampton Wanderers and is hoping to play in the Nationwide League first division match against Nottingham Forest at Molineux tomorrow.

The two goalkeepers, along with John Fashanu, the former England and Wimbledon striker, and a Malaysian businessman, Richard Lim, were all found not guilty earlier this year of criminal charges of match-fixing. However, during their trials, Grobbelaar and Segers admitted that they had taken money for trying to forecast the results of matches, Grobbelaar in English games and Segers for matches in Holland. They also admitted that they had occasionally supplied information about English fixtures. However, neither tried to forecast the results of games in which they were playing.

The FA rule preventing players from betting is intended to stop those involved in the sport from giving information about matches to those involved in betting on the outcome. Both players told the commission that they had not fully appreciated the FA's rules regarding assisting others to bet.

The three-man commission viewed the misconduct as "serious" and said that both players would normally receive a six-month ban from all forms of football and a £10,000 fine. However, the commission, which heard the evidence in a five-hour hearing on Thursday, concluded that, given the "severe financial hardship and three-year blight on their careers", they had already suffered considerably.

The commission of Jeff Thompson, the disciplinary committee chairman, Barry Bright, his vice-chairman, and Frank Pattison, a committee member, said that it would "be unfair to impose a penalty which would take the two goalkeepers out of the game".

The sentences were suspended for two years and will be imposed only if either player commits a similar offence within that time. Each player was also ordered to pay £4,000 towards the costs of the hearing.

Grobbelaar said afterwards that three years ago he had been "devastated" by the allegations. "It became clear to me that there was some sort of conspiracy against Bruce Grobbelaar," he said. The player felt he had now been exonerated and was happy to resume his career. "I am waiting for offers," he added.

Grobbelaar is without a club at present but said that he was planning to carry on his libel action against one newspaper "to clear my name once and for all in these matters". He added that he did not believe that he had effectively been let off by the FA. "It is a serious matter. Had I known the penalties before, I would never have entered into the agreement with certain people. As it happens, I was naive."

He said that, physically, the whole episode had had no effect on him. "However, mentally and financially, it has devastated me and my family," he added.

Mel Goldberg, Segers's solicitor, said that his client accepted the decision. "As far as Hans is concerned, he was forecasting, not betting, but forecasting on matches played in Holland."

Goldberg said that Segers did not know that, by doing that, he could be in breach of FA rules in this country. "The FA has decided that the forecasting of matches in Holland is an extra-territorial offence for which he could be charged with misconduct."

The FA decided, six weeks ago, to clamp down on players, directors and managers who bet on the outcome of matches, even though the relevant rule has been in existence for many years. As a result of an inquiry led by Sir John Smith, a former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, all clubs have been reminded of the rule that prohibits players, officials and referees from assisting or taking part in gambling on football, apart from the pools.

Managers as alchemists 36
Oliver Holt 37
Ruud Gullit .... **Magazine**

The Sutton incident? Ah yes, Wenger remembers it well

LYNNE TRUSS

A curious moment yesterday lunchtime. Lurking self-consciously in the corridor of a Hertfordshire hotel, waiting for Arsène Wenger to give one of his splendid press conferences, I had one of those wrong-end-of-the-telescope sensations that come all too frequently with this job.

Trolleys of aromatic food passed tantalisingly left to right, while David Seaman kept travelling teasingly right to left. Much as I would hate to be represented as a drooling girlie, it has to be admitted that these two phenomena, criss-crossing in front of me, roused precisely similar effects on the saliva glands. "David Seaman smiled at me," I told other waiting hacks, who affected a polite interest. "Also, I just sat in a chair still bearing the body-warmth of Football Focus's Gary Richardson." Clearly, I had been away from football for too long, but it was wonderful to be back.

Wenger gives good press conferences. The bright, casual atmosphere at this quiet, posh hotel, its corridors festooned with framed footie testimonials and signed shirts, is evidently very congenial to him. David Platt once spent three months living here. The Spain team stayed here during Euro 96. And Sheffield Wednesday were checking in later, before their match at Upton Park today. To anybody who played imaginary hotels in their youth, this was scary enough to induce a kind of vertigo.

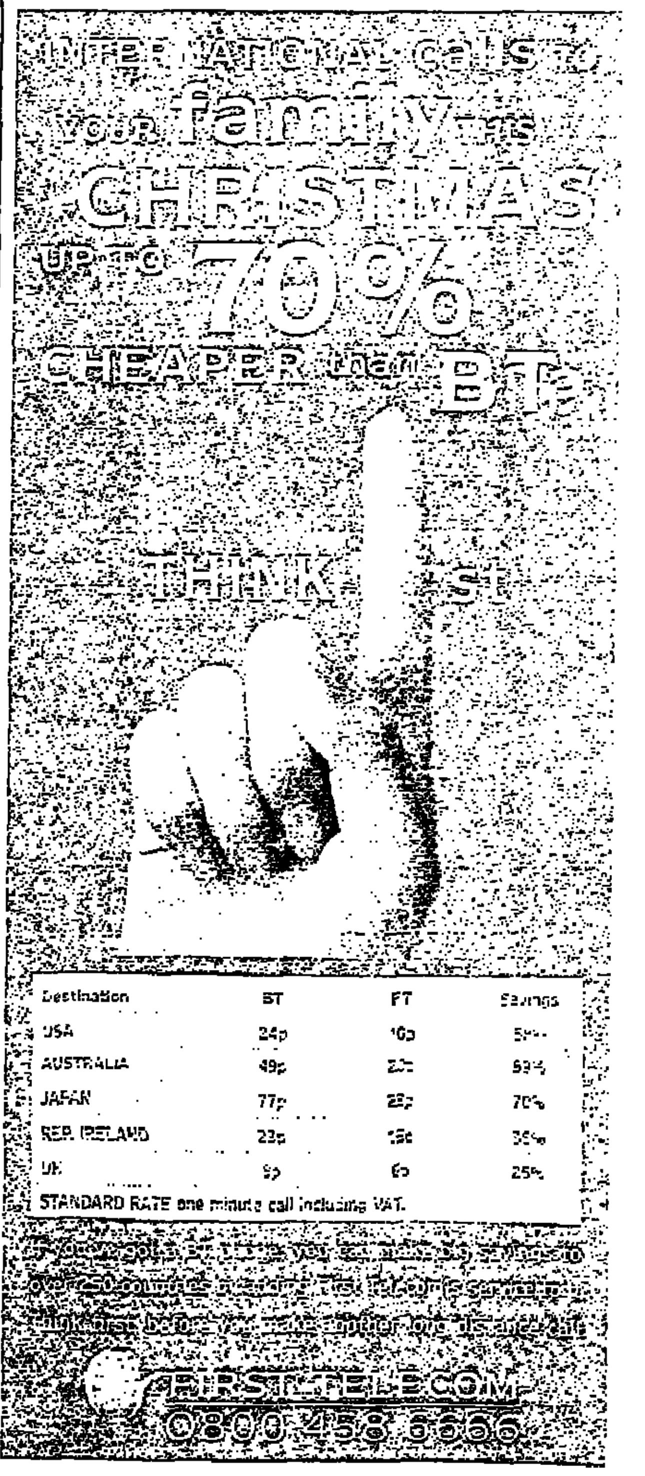
At the age of 12, my friend, Hilary, and I had a hotel register full of Paul McCartneys and Herman's Hermits, but most important, we had the 1966 World Cup squad. "Take this sandwich and glass of orange up to Bobby Charlton," we would command each other. "Nobby Stiles wishes to see the wine list."

Ian Wright walks past. No sign of Bergkamp. A small flurry of excitement when Martin Keown appears, but I know absolutely nothing about Keown, so continue to hang about watching Seaman and the trolleys (good name for a band). He has just come back from "stretching" — and I am just plucking up the courage to warn him against this rash practice ("You already bang your head on door frames!") when Wenger finally emerges and gives a thoughtful Gallic-yet-Socratic seminar on the nature of disappointment and the importance of courage.

He speaks softly, but beautifully, in an accent that makes you want to ask: "Can you say 'Thank heaven for little girls', Monsieur Wenger? Say 'Ah yes, I remember it well'." But, instead, one leans forward attentively and puts thoughts of Maurice Chevalier's straw boater out of one's mind.

The main interest, of course, is in the match with Blackburn Rovers today. Mention Chris Sutton, who gained a reputation as an arch-transgressor of sportsmanship in this fixture last season, and the sky goes black. "Yes, if I told you I forgot that match, it would be a lie," Wenger said, with the expressive built-in shrug that he shares with Ruud Gullit. "But it's the wrong way to go into the match, to think of that. If the players think 'I must kick Chris Sutton', that's the best way to lose the game. Though I still think what he did was wrong."

As they pass through from the stretching rooms — we are not invited in — the players do not look like the sort of people who would kick anybody. It is a real privilege to see them like this. Even Tony Adams looks pleasant, but it's all a bit unreal. Somewhere, someone is saying: "Take this sandwich and glass of orange to Dennis Bergkamp," or: "Tony Adams does not wish to see the wine list." How very circular life can be.



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SWIMMING

Mew makes waves for younger generation

By Craig Lord

THE pressure on older swimmers either to reinvent themselves or retire gathered pace at the British national championships in Sheffield yesterday as teenagers Helen Don-Duncan and Darren Mew added their names to the book of national senior records.

Don-Duncan's 2min 13.82sec in the 200 metres backstroke came at the expense of two experienced internationals, and Mew's 28.58sec over 50 metres breaststroke was a fitting eighteenth birthday present for a man who has proved he can travel through water faster than former world beaters Adrian Moorhouse and Nick Gillingham ever did.

As Deryk Snelling, Britain's national performance director, put it with a smile and a keen eye on the world championships next month: "This'll knock on the door of the older athletes, who will have to decide whether they're in or out from now on."

Neither were rested from heavy training nor affected by the experienced internationals in the lanes next to them. Don-Duncan, 16, led her race from start to finish and stopped the clock 0.09sec inside the previous British record, set by Joanne Deakins in 1992.

Deakins, 25, could manage only 2min 17.16sec yesterday, for third place behind Kathy Osher (2:16.72), who, at 28, has more national swimming titles to her name than any other British swimmer. Their young challenger from Ashton Central swam into waters unchartered by them yesterday to rise into the top 20 in the world.

For Mew, his 50 metres effort in itself counted for less than for the promise it holds for his 100 metres swim. Originally from the Isle of Wight and now at the University of Bath, Mew collected his first national senior title on Thursday over 100 metres, a distance which, unlike the 50 metres, is raced at the world championships and Olympic Games and forms part of the 4 x 100 metres medley relay.

Mew's 100 metres time, however, does not yet reflect the speed that yesterday's 50 metres effort would indicate he is capable of. The same was ever true of the now-retired James Parrack, the man whose record he broke by 0.05sec yesterday, and Mew will need to improve his stamina to lift himself among the world's best and carry the mantle of a great British breaststroke tradition worn by Gillingham and Moorhouse before him.

James Hickman, fresh from his world-class victory in the 200 metres butterfly on Thursday, returned to the fray yesterday to win the 100 metres butterfly in 53.76sec, well inside the world championship qualifying standard. His main rival, Stephen Parry, of Liverpool, already selected for Perth, could be excused a sluggish third place: he had got off a plane from the United States two hours before his morning heat swim.

Parry had not had time to rest because of early finals but at least he made the race. Martin Harris had not noticed that schedules were early because of television coverage and appeared on the deck after his national title over the 100 metres backstroke had passed to Neil Willey.

If there is evidence that standards in British swimming are on the up, it is perhaps most obvious at the moment in the number of swimmers now challenging for places on relay teams that have genuine medal prospects on a world stage.

The women's 200 metres freestyle yesterday saw Vicki Horner, Jessica Craig and Karen Legg add their names to the world championship roster. The race saw Claire Huddart, of Leeds, collect her second national title of the championships, in 2min 01.67sec, though she and Karen Pickering had already been selected for Perth. Mark Stevens, in winning the 100 metres freestyle title in 50.66sec, will also travel to Perth as a member of the men's 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay.

Help from the aged: Ripley takes the strain yesterday as the Boat Race candidates go through their paces

Believe it or not — it's Ripley

Matt Dickinson traces a rugby legend's remarkable conversion

When middle-aged restlessness began to gnaw at Andy Ripley, his wife's response was: "Go and buy yourself a fast motorbike, dear." Ripley, though — to the surprise of no one who ever saw him in an England rugby shirt — decided that, even at 50, he still had enough horsepower of his own.

Enough, he believed, to become the oldest oarsman in the 168-year history of the Boat Race, which was why he was in Putney yesterday trying to squeeze his 16½st into some rather unflattering Lycra. The event has seen many oddities in its long, glorious past, but never a 50-year-old back-row forward in a skintight one-piece.

That he will fall short of the ultimate goal of rowing for Cambridge is, barring a mutiny, almost certain. There will probably have to be men overboard for him even to make the reserves. But that is not the point.

To have lasted the cuts, the 6am weights sessions, the gruelling intensity of ten-mile outings and still be in the final 24 yesterday, Ripley has already defied the expectations of experienced coaches, sceptical crew-mates and, most of all, the march of time.

"Put it this way," Ripley, who has interrupted a successful career in the City to study a one-year MPhil in trade economics, said, "most of these lads were not even born in 1974 when I was playing for the British Lions. I've got a 17-year-old son for goodness sake. He should be here, not me."

It is a tribute to Ripley's zest and enduring youth that, as he sat in the boathouse, his fresh-faced colleagues chuntering about girlfriends and parties, the happily married father of three was treated as one of the gang, to be sworn at and joked with in equal measure.

"There is no room for passengers when you are in a rowing boat," he said. "I know the minute I slow them down I will be out, but I'm still hanging in there now."

If age was not problem enough as he sweated through one of the most punishing training regimes in sport, Ripley had not even sat in a boat until 18 months ago. While Cambridge's German oarsman, Marc Weber, was celebrating an Olympic gold medal last summer, Ripley was finishing 55th in the Nottingham Head of the River — out of 55. Six minutes slower than the field after capsizing twice, the stewards feared he had drowned.

He was not put off, but then he would not be. At the age of 18, Ripley picked up a rugby ball for the first time. Ten years later he owned 24 England caps.

The force, of the brute variety, was with him when it came to rowing and his ergometer times have consistently been in the squad's top five.

He has enjoyed one of the most colourful careers of any British sportsman: the heroics of the 1974 Lions in South Africa, defeat by Alan Pascoe in the British 400 metres hurdles finals, British Universities basketball, elite canoeing, top-class rugby with Rosslyn Park until he was 41 . . . even the loss of the *Superstars* world championship, which involved the unlikely mix of Jody Schekter, the Formula One legend, and a pair of trainers soaked in wax.

While Ripley's oak tree thighs struggled gamely through the squat thrust round, Scheckter slid his lubricated feet up and down like a demented rabbit to the outrage of millions of viewers. Ripley never recovered, and finished joint second.

It was a story that drew blank faces from his Cambridge crew-mates this week, too young to appreciate that they were with a sporting phenomenon. That, though, is how Ripley prefers it. Just one of the lads.

ROWING

Williams enjoys tactical battle

By Mike Rosewell

ROBIN WILLIAMS, the Cambridge University coach, and his two trial eights, *Juniper* and *Angelica*, gained much more from their efforts yesterday than their Oxford counterparts did on Thursday. Wildly different conditions over the course: a little bit of the unexpected and the need for quick tactical decisions produced a useful day for 13 Britons, two Germans, a Canadian, and Austrian and a South Africa, nine of whom were experiencing a Boat Race scenario for the first time.

Juniper, stroked by Brad Crombie, the Canada international, won by 3½ lengths (18min 41sec), a comfortable margin. "It would be nice to have had a close race," Williams said, "but I wanted to get information and I got a lot of it."

Juniper won the toss and chose Surrey, which gave them marginally less sea-like conditions around the Fulham bend, where *Angelica* shipped water, leaving them a length down at the Mile. *Jupiter* had clear water as the course flattened approaching Hammersmith Bridge, but the crews were then faced with the unexpected — a moored safety barge across the preferred path.

Both coxes opted to pass it wide on Middlesex. Suzie Ellis, of *Angelica*, then quickly swung to Surrey, called for effort, and brought her crew swiftly back. Alistair Potts, her rival, saw the danger, curved across *Angelica's* bows, missing by inches, and, in Potts's words: "Shut the door to terminate them."

☐ The third Cambridge crew, with Andy Ripley, the 50-year-old former England rugby union player on board, were 55sec slower than *Juniper*.

JUNIPER: Bow, M Jones (St Bede's RC HS and Trinity Hall); 2, *D J Cassidy (Shrewsbury and Trinity Hall); 3, P W Trueman (RGS, Newcastle and Jesus); 4, P A Cunningham (British School of Brussels and Gonville and Caius); 5, C J Page (King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds and St Edmund's); 6, M Weber (Techsch. Universität, Berlin and St Edmund's); 7, J G Bull (RGS, Newcastle and Emmanuel). Stroke, *B Crombie (Crescent School, Toronto, and Peterhouse); Cox, A J Potts (Winchester and Trinity Hall).

ANGELICA: Bow, F C S Brown (Eton and Trinity); 2, D H Burston (Arden and Homerton); 3, R A Ehlers (Parktown Boys HS and St John's); 4, S F Forster (Riemeuschneider Gymnasium, Würzburg and Peterhouse); 5, S H Korbel (AIS, Vienna and Gonville and Caius); 6, G Smith (Westminster and St Edmund's); 7, T H Brun (Eton and Jesus); Stroke, T J Wallace (King Edward VI, Southampton and Jesus); Cox, S K Ellis (Abbots Bromley School and Homerton).

* denotes Blue

SNOOKER

Hamilton pushes Higgins to the last

From Phil Yates in Bingen

FOLLOWING the example of Ken Doherty and Ronnie O'Sullivan, John Higgins negotiated a deciding frame to survive the quarter-finals of the German Open here yesterday.

Higgins, determined to ease the painful memory of his surprise defeat by Gary Ponting in the second round of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship, beat Anthony Hamilton 5-4.

The Scot, who won the inaugural staging of the event in Frankfurt two years ago, now plays O'Sullivan, who fortuitously defeated Tony Drago 5-4 on Thursday by fluking the final black to a top corner pocket.

"Ronnie is on the crest of a wave and he'll be favourite but, if I play well, I fancy beating him," Higgins said.

Leading 2-1, thanks to breaks of 91 and 61, Higgins ran out of position on the run of 57 with which he opened the scoring in the fourth frame. Hamilton fought back eventually to steal it on the black before moving 3-2 ahead with a 67 break.

Hamilton appeared capable of being victorious in his debut in the quarter-finals of a world ranking event but, helped by contributions of 46, 30 and 66, Higgins dominated the following two frames.

Hamilton, for whom a significant breakthrough has been predicted for some time, carried the match its full distance by winning the eighth but was never in contention as Higgins tactically controlled the decider.

While Higgins possesses more patience than O'Sullivan he does not at the moment enjoy the fine edge of self-belief which was such a feature of his play when winning five ranking competitions during a 16-month golden spell between the 1994 Grand Prix and the 1996 International Open.

The legal wranglings, which have become a by-product of professional snooker's intensifying political rift, rumbled on yesterday when it was announced that Jim McKenzie, controversially dismissed as chief executive of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, has issued a writ against his former employers.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final, first leg: London Towers 76 Leicester Riders 74

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Group A: CSKA Moscow (Russ) 83 Limoges (Fr) 70; Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 61 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 70. Olympiakos Piraeus (Gr) 82 Real Madrid (Sp) 75. Group B: Benetton Treviso (It) 65 PAOK Salonika (Gr) 57. Group C: Hapoel Jerusalem (Isr) 67 Pau-Orthez (Fr) 79, Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 49 Kinder Bologna (It) 74; Barcelona (Sp) 89 Ulkerspor (Tur) 80. Group D: Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 67 AEK Athens (Gr) 63; PSG Racing (Fr) 84 Teamsystem Bologna (It) 60

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Detroit 103 New Jersey 99, New York 107 Minnesota 103; Orlando 100 Dallas 90; Cleveland 79 Milwaukee 77, Phoenix 94 Atlanta 78

BOWLS

COATBRIDGE: Scottish indoor championship: Final: A Syme bt P Forster 7-5, 5-7, 4-7, 7-2, 7-2

CRICKET

Champions Trophy
Pakistan v West Indies

SHARJAH (West Indies won toss): West Indies beat Pakistan by 43 runs

WEST INDIES

P Wallace c Inzamam b Saqlain	33
S C Williams c Wasim b Shahid	77
B C Lara c Azhar b Wasim	88
C L Hooper st Moin b Saqlain	17
P V Simmons c Aamir b Saqlain	22
S Chanderpaul not out	16
F A Rose b Wasim	2
†D Williams c and b Wasim	0
R Lewis not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 12, nb 1)	20
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	275

M V Dillon and *C A Walsh did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-81, 2-160, 3-217, 4-243, 5-266, 6-271, 7-271.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 10-0-62-3; Waqar Younis 10-0-53-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-35-3; Azhar Mahmood 10-0-61-0; Shahid Afridi 10-0-57-1

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail c Lewis b Rose	17
Shahid Afridi run out	67
Saeed Anwar c Lara b Dillon	22
Ijaz Ahmed c Hooper b Lewis	12
Inzamam-ul-Haq run out	32
Akhtar Sarfraz lbw b Simmons	25
*Wasim Akram c Chanderpaul b Walsh	22
†Moin Khan run out	8
Azhar Mahmood c Simmons b Walsh	4
Saqlain Mushtaq not out	2
Waqar Younis c Wallace b Hooper	1
Extras (lb 8, w 7, nb 4)	19
Total (46 overs)	232

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-91, 3-124, 4-135, 5-178, 6-204, 7-222, 8-229, 9-230

BOWLING: Walsh 8-0-14-2; Rose 6-0-47-1; Dillon 8-0-45-1; Hooper 9-0-56-1; Lewis 8-1-31-1, Simmons 7-0-31-1.

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and B C Cooray (Sri Lanka)

Under-19 international
South Africa v England

CAPE TOWN (second day of four): England Under-19, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 249 runs behind South Africa Under-19

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

A Puttick c Peters b Franks	4
A Gait c Flanagan b Swann	55
J de Nobrega b Franks	0
*M Street c and b Swann	79
†M van Wyk b Franks	15
G Elliott not out	201
M Lumb b Swann	11
J Rudolph b Franks	28
M Greed b Haywood	61
R Petersen not out	15
Extras (b 6, lb 12, w 5, nb 10)	35
Total (8 wkts dec)	504

V Mpitsang did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-12, 3-131, 4-154, 5-164, 6-203, 7-302, 8-450

BOWLING: Logan 29.5-5-104-0; Franks 35-9-65-4; Napier 14-1-71-0; Schofield 17-1-69-0; Swann 43-5-139-3; Haywood 7-0-36-1

ENGLAND: First Innings

S D Peters c Gait b Greed	4
R W T Key c Street b Lumb	39
I N Flanagan c Puttick b Greed	11
G P Swann c Street b Petersen	75
M A Gough c van Wyk b Lumb	0
G R Haywood not out	12
R J Logan not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 3, nb 6)	14
Total (5 wkts)	155

G R Napier, *P J Franks, C P Schofield, †N J Wilton to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-44, 3-90, 4-106, 5-107

BOWLING: Mpitsang 10-1-51-0; Greed 8-1-29-2; Lumb 9-1-38-2; Peterson 9-4-18-1, Rudolph 5-1-14-0.

Umpires: P Reypert and J Palekar

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Madras: Denmark 56-7 (B McDonald 3-12; 23 overs); Ireland 57-1; 19.1 overs). Ireland win by nine wickets. New Delhi: South Africa 163-9 (L Olivier 51; 50 overs); Australia 166-0 (B Clark 95 not out, J Broadbent 59 not out; 29.5 overs). Australia win by ten wickets

CURLING

FUSSEN, Germany: European championships: Challenge round: Men: Norway 8 France 5; Wales 7 England 6. Women: Holland 0 Finland 9; England 5 Luxembourg 4. Quarter-finals: Women: Sweden 9 Scotland 3; Switzerland 7 Finland 9; Denmark 12 Norway 4; England 2 Germany 8

FOOTBALL

CONFEDERATIONS' CUP: Saudi Arabia 0 Brazil 3; Australia 3 Mexico 1 (both in Riyadh)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second round draw: Southern section: Fulham v Wycombe Wanderers, Luton v Brentford; Walsall v Brighton; Bournemouth v Leyton Orient, Swansea v Peterborough; Northampton v Torquay; Bristol City v Millwall; Exeter v Bristol Rovers. Northern section: Blackpool v York; Grimsby v Hull City, Mansfield v Wrexham, Wigan v Rotherham; Carlisle v Rochdale, Burnley v Notts County; Macclesfield v Preston, Hartlepool v Scunthorpe

Thursday's late results

UEFA CUP: Third round, second leg: VfL Bochum 2 Ajax 2 (Ajax win 6-4 on agg)

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Gt Harwood 0 Witton 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 1 Chelsea 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Everton 1 Stoke 1; Aston Villa 4 Liverpool 1, Blackburn 3 Manchester Utd 1, Leeds 3 Tranmere 1 (at Halifax Town FC)

HANDBALL

BONN: Women's world championship: Quarter-finals: Germany 24 Macedonia 19; Norway 27 Korea 21; Denmark 25 Croatia 21, Russia 24 Poland 19. Draw: Germany v Norway; Denmark v Russia

ICE HOCKEY

EXPRESS CUP: Newcastle Cobras 1 Cardiff Devils 5

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 2 Buffalo 1; St Louis 2 Ottawa 1; Philadelphia 4 NY Islanders 3

ICE SKATING

HULL: British senior championships: Compulsory dance: 1 equal, R Chrobokova and J Lanning (Streatham), and C Clements and G Shortland (Slough) 0.6; 3, S Kerr and J Ferguson (Linx/Alt) 1.2; 4, P O Connor and J O'Dougherty (Blackburn) 1.6; 5, A Diaz and A Lovey (Guildford) 2.2

NORDIC SKIING

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colorado: World Cup (90-metre jump ranking, 7.5km race ranking): 1, H Manninen (Fin, 8, 4); 2, B E Vik (Nor, 5, 10), 1.4sec behind; 3, M Stecher (Austria, 1, 24), 16.1; 4, G Myhre (Nor, 26, 11), 17.2; 5, S Lajunen (Fin, 3, 17), 18.0

HARRACHOV, Czech Republic: World Cup (K90 hill): 1, M Harada (Japan) 248.5pts (95.5m, 94m); 2 equal, P Peterka (Slovenia) 244 (95, 91), D Thoma (Ger) 244 (95, 94.5); 4, A Widhoelzl (Austria) 237.5 (92, 90.5); 5, H Saito (Japan) 237 (94.5, 88.5); 6, S Horngacher (Austria) 232 (92.5, 88.5).

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: Third round: RGS High Wycombe 13 Pangbourne 7. Other matches: Sevenoaks 17 Wynberg (SA) 15; City of London Freeman's 53 KCS Wimbledon 7

SNOOKER

BINGEN: German Open: Quarter-finals: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt A Drago (Malta) 5-4; K Doherty (Ire) bt J Burnett (Scot) 5-4; J Higgins (Scot) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-4

SQUASH

HONG KONG: Pak Fah Yeow world doubles championships: Mixed quarter-finals: England (C Walker and C Jackman) bt United States 15-6, 15-3; Canada bt Malaysia 15-10, 15-11; South Africa bt Hong Kong 15-13, 15-13; Australia bt New Zealand 11-15, 15-11, 15-13. Fifth qualifying round: Men: Group A: New Zealand bt England (Walker and M Cairns) 15-10, 11-15, 15-13; Malaysia bt Singapore 15-11, 15-8; South Africa bt Scotland (A Thomson and G Sword) 15-11, 15-8. Group B: Australia bt Pakistan 14-17, 15-7, 15-5; Hong Kong bt Canada 15-12, 15-6; United States bt Holland 15-12, 17-16. Women: Group A: South Africa bt Australia 12-15, 17-15, 15-13; Malaysia bt Canada 15-8, 15-12; Philippines bt United States 15-12, 17-16. Group B: New Zealand bt England (Jackman and S Wright) 15-9, 15-11; Hong Kong bt Singapore 17-16, 15-10; Scotland (S and H Macfie) bt Japan 15-6, 15-7

SWIMMING

PONDS FORGE, Sheffield: ASA national winter championships: Men: 400m freestyle: 1, P Palmer (University of Bath) 3min 54.39sec; 2, G Smith (Stockport Metro) 3:55.39; 3, J Salter (City of Edinburgh) 3:57.43. 50m backstroke: 1, M Harris (Tower Hamlets) 26.77sec; 2, N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 26.94; 3, A O'Connor (Ire) 27.26. 100m breaststroke: 1, D Mew (University of Bath) 1min 03.13sec; 2, G Brattell (University of Bath) 1:03.51; 3, R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears) 1:04.38. 200m butterfly: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 1min 59.33sec. Women: 100m freestyle: 1, C Huddart (City of Leeds) 57.19sec; 2, K Pickering (Ipswich) 57.47; 3, M Marshall (South Lincolnshire) 57.62. 50m backstroke: 1, K Osher (Ealing) 30.23sec; 2, K Jiggins (Norwich Penguin) 30.44; 3, S Price (Barnet Copthall) 30.54. 200m breaststroke: 1, L Hindmarsh (City of Leeds) 2min 31.47sec; 2, J King (University of Bath) 2:31.91; 3, H Earo (Newcastle Staffs) 2:33.40. 400m medley: 1, H Cerna (Cze) 4min 40.87sec; 2, S Nesbit (Portsmouth Northsea) 4:52.77; 3, Y Corvy (Bel) 4:57.33

WEIGHTLIFTING

CHIANG MAI, Thailand: World championships: Men: 83kg: 1, A Cofalik (Pol) snatch 172.5, jerk 207.5, total 380; 2, D Sezand (Tur) 170, 205, 375; 3, K Siemion (Pol) 165, 207.5, 372.5. 91kg: 1, V Vacarciuc (Mol) 175, 212.5, 387.5; 2, S Bulut (Tur) 172.5, 210, 382.5; 3, M Agapitov (Russ) 175, 205, 380. Women: 70kg: 1, Xiang Fengian (China) 105, 130, 235; 2, Huang Hsi-Li (Taiwan) 97.5, 120, 217.5; 3, I Daraji (Hun) 100, 115, 215. 76kg: 1, H Ju (China) 107.5, 140, 247.5 (world record); 2, A Ozgur (Turk) 110 (world record), 125, 235; 3, M Takacs (Hun) 100, 125, 225

SPORT IN BRIEF

French fail in campaign for grand prix return

MOTOR RACING: The FIA, the sport's governing body, yesterday turned down a French Government appeal to have the French Grand Prix reinstated into the Formula One calendar next season. The FIA said that it had not received the guarantees it had demanded from the Government over television coverage. A FIA spokesman added: "If the grand prix was to be reinstated, that would make it 17 races next season and that would pose a huge problem for the teams." The Government said that it had not given up hope.

The FIA also announced that the Spanish town of Jérez would not host another grand prix next season — because of the bad behaviour of its mayor. "The Jérez mayor, along with several other local dignitaries, caused a disturbance at the prize-giving ceremony for the 1997 European Grand Prix which inconvenienced those handing out the trophies," the FIA said in a statement.

Honour for Rusedski

TENNIS: Greg Rusedski received the player of the year trophy at the inaugural Lawn Tennis Association awards at the All-England Club, Wimbledon, last night. Rusedski's award, made at the annual dinner of the Lawn Tennis Writers' Association, was among 12 presented by the LTA to recognise outstanding achievement in various areas of the sport. Sir Geoffrey Cass, president of the LTA, said: "Greg has been a wonderful inspiration for the whole of British tennis this year. As well as his marvellous victories we have also admired his commitment to give something back to the fans whenever he has the chance."

OTHER WINNERS: Coach: Ian Barclay. Junior player: Hannah Collin. Disabled player: Janet McMorran. Official: Alan Mills. Indoor centre: Nottingham. Tournament: Nottingham Open. Local authority: Manchester. School: Central Newcastle High. Club: Boston LTC. County: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Junior aces club: Lady of Muswell.

Scotland secure world berth

CURLING: Scotland beat England 9-1 to make sure of finishing in the top six at the European championships in Fussen, Germany yesterday and securing their place at the world championships in Canada (Bill Melville writes). The English and the Welsh men — beaten 6-4 by Switzerland — now face uphill struggles against Norway and Finland respectively to win the final reserved European places at Kamloops in April. The Welsh men failed to capture the form that had embarrassed Sweden, the world champions, but again took superior opposition to a full ten ends of play.

Sturgeon a doubtful starter

CYCLING: Carl Sturgeon is not optimistic about holding his lead in the penultimate round of the National Trophy cyclo-cross series at Leicester tomorrow (Peter Bryan writes). A heavy cold has left him unable to train this week. He will leave the decision whether to compete until tomorrow morning. If Sturgeon fails to start, the main beneficiary could be Barrie Clarke, the defending competition champion and British title holder. He goes to the line four points behind Sturgeon's aggregate of 94, with Gary Foord on 80 and Stuart Blunt on 73.

ICE SKATING

Slough samba hits mark

By Angela Court

ALTHOUGH the British Olympic Association's ruling that those wanting to compete at the forthcoming Winter Olympic Games must prove they are capable of finishing among the leading 50 per cent in their event could leave British skating with a team of one, there was no shortage of enthusiasm from both competitors and spectators as the Tesa British Senior championships began in Hull yesterday.

The withdrawal from the pairs event of Lesley Rogers and Michael Aldred, champions on three occasions, and the separation of Marika Humphreys and Philip Askew, twice ice-dance champions, could have put a damper on things, but the remaining skaters completed the first half of their respective events with undiminished verve.

Ice dance is the only discipline in figure skating to retain three sections — compulsories, original and free — and will be all the more interesting this season as the International Skating Union (ISU) is allowing vocal music for the original dance — the jive.

Courtney Jones, the former world ice-dance champion who is a member of the ISU dance committee, said: "We're looking at all sorts of ways of being innovative about ice dance as a whole. We thought allowing vocals would add a new dimension and from what we've seen in international events so far it appears to have worked. Audiences seem to enjoy participating."

After the two compulsory dances, Radmila Chrobokova and Justin Lanning were tied with Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, of Slough.

Chrobokova and Lanning performed above expectations in the golden waltz and moved their coach, Diane Towler, to say: "It was the best I've seen them skate."

If experience counts for anything, they should come out on top and take over as Britain's leading dancers. Chrobokova originates from the Czech Republic, the country she represented, with Miln Brzy, in the 1994 Olympic Games. Lanning, 24, won the British ice-dance title in 1992 with Humphreys and competed in the world championships in both 1993 and 1994. They have been together for just under 16 months and commute daily for training.

"It just feels great to be back in contention," Lanning said. "We were fourth last year at our first attempt together, but this year is a different matter."

For Clements, 18, and Shortland, 21, being in joint first place in their first senior championship together is quite a feat. They won the second compulsory dance, the silver samba, and even scored a 5.0.

This couple won at junior level in 1994 but went their separate ways before reforming their partnership a year ago. "We felt very relaxed on the samba," Shortland said. "It's an easier dance for us."

Sinead Kerr, from Linx, Aberdeen, and Jamie Ferguson, of Altrincham, lay third of the five couples competing going into last night's original dance section.

CRICKET

Swann's grace may be wasted

THE LOSS of Graeme Swann only eight balls before the close left England Under-19 in trouble at the end of the second day of the first Test against South Africa in Cape Town (John Stern writes).

The Northamptonshire all-rounder, who had earlier completed 43 overs of off spin in South Africa's first innings of 504 for eight declared, batted beautifully during his innings of 75. His half-century was reached with the third of three consecutive cover drives off Robbie Petersen.

However, he did bat, as did some of his team-mates, as if it were a limited-overs contest and his efforts may now count for nought considering that England still require 200 more runs to avoid the follow-on. Swann was fifth out with the score on 155 when he was well caught by Matthew Street, the South Africa captain, at short extra cover as he drove uppishly off the back foot.

Robert Key, the opening batsman, gave his wicket cheaply, playing a rather half-hearted cut shot, which was caught by Street at third slip.

Perhaps the apparent strength of feeling between the sides was causing the sap to rise to an unhealthy level. On one occasion, umpire Pat Reypter spoke to Street after Swann had withdrawn from the crease before two consecutive deliveries, objecting to the loquacity of his opponents huddled around the bat.

England's opening bowlers, Paul Franks and Richard Logan, had a relatively new ball with which to bowl yesterday morning and they maintained a tight line early on. However, they were unable to prevent Grant Elliott, resuming on 85, reaching his century and after lunch the South Africans scored 104 runs in an hour.

Elliott progressed towards a double century, the last fifty of which came from only 39 balls. Two superbly timed lofted on-drives off Logan in three balls posted his team's 500 and then his own 200, a milestone that prompted the declaration.

[illegible]

هكذا من الإصل

Challenge match fails acid test

A radio phone-in on the subject of extremes of performance capable when playing Sunday league football while roaring drunk suddenly takes a spectacular turn when a man ups the stakes and tells of a match played while tripping on LSD. He is neither smug nor superior about his ill-advised chemical intake, but merely offers it up as another colour to add to the palette of complete soccer research.

Apparently, the most notable thing for him and his five friends — all of whom had nibbled at the blotter — was the shared image that the grass on which they played was made of thousands of looped rubber bands. Also the ball, when it travelled through the air, left a Day-Glo wash in its wake, which I found rather a hoary piece of imagery but one that he assured me was true.

He also recalled that the holes in the net could be stretched until the net itself gaped in places like "a clipper ship's sails blasted by cannon balls", and his turn in goal was so marked by his intense interest in this phenomenon that when the ball eventually struck him on the back of the head, it took all his concentration to shake off the idea that he was being attacked by pirates.

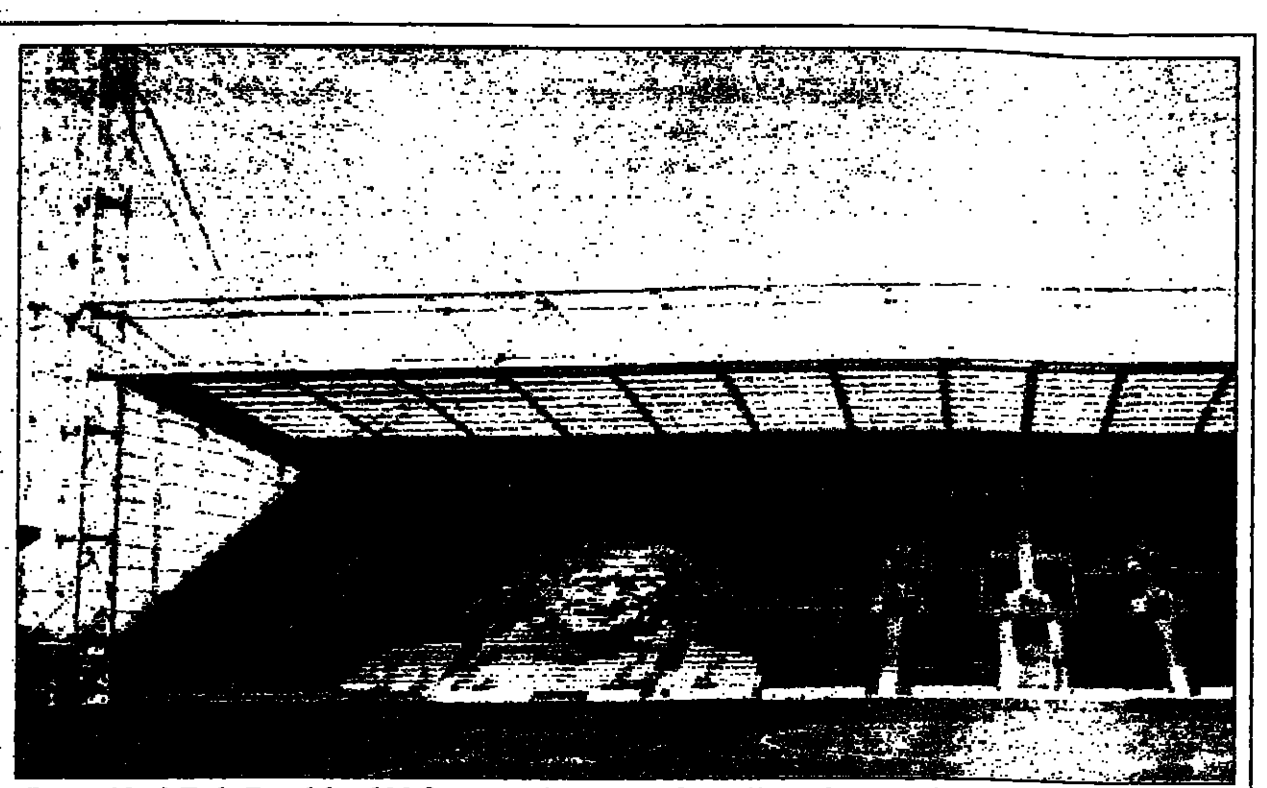
The whole psychedelic kick-about was being experienced at night in a public park and might have remained a private occasion had the six not noticed another group of fellows making a noise on the far side. These chaps, they reasoned, were doubtless also in an altered state and it made perfect sense to approach them and get a proper match under way.

As it turned out, this new group *were* out of their minds, but from cider and vodka, not LSD, so it was a straight matter of Drunks against Acid Heads, surely one of the most exotic but reprehensible fixtures to take place. Sadly, we will never know the outcome, because all went according to form and cliché.

The Drunks, playing with bottles gripped grimly at the neck, were so noisy and aggressive that the Trippers became convinced they would eventually turn cannibal and murder them where they stood. Consequently, on a given signal, the Trippers fled the field. The Drunks, it seems, thought the Trippers were making off with their coats and gave chase.

The Trippers did not stop running until they made it the several miles to the bottom of my caller's block of flats and even then, he admits, they continued to jog on the spot while travelling in the lift. Once inside his home, they bolted the door, put a table against it and "spread out and hid", each one remaining silent and secluded until well into the next day. Even then they would crouch down on passing the windows.

A few weeks ago in this column I expressed a desire to see an Alternative Olympics wherein competitors could feel free to take whatever drug they chose, so long as it made them better athletes. After the tale of the Great Technicolour Fiasco in the Park, I have a depressing idea that such an event, however interesting it appears on paper, might be something of a farce.



Preston North End's Deepdale, which features an impression of Tom Finney, is among the stadiums to have suffered

Terrace artists decide to break new ground

■ Though I'm aware that it is tantamount to encouraging law-breaking, I must say that I thoroughly approve of the spate of break-ins at football grounds by self-styled "guerrilla artists". What these dotty daubers do is sneak in to stadiums at night and, with paint and fabric, corrupt the words and images that are formed by the coloured seats in modern stands.

So whereas at Ibrox you once looked upon the immense word "RANGERS" spelt out in white plastic chairs, apparently, at the moment, it says "BANGERS". Now many feel that creating "BANGERS" was hardly worth the risk and effort involved, but from the moment I heard about it I wept with laughter. Less clear is why at Southampton the words "THE DELL" have overnight been shaped into "THEM BEE", or West Brom's "WBA" became "WBB".

More success was had at Middlesbrough, where "BORO" was briefly "BOOO!", and it must've been the work of a moment to create "FULL CITY" in Hull's new West Terrace. But surely not even the crotchetiest official — and clubs are invoking all kinds of safety scare stories to try to wipe the smile from the public's face on this one — can stifle a smile on hearing the news that Tom Finney, whose immense profile is picked out in black and white at Preston's new stadium, today sports a striking pair of red drop-earrings.

Staff at the ground say the "defilement" will be erased before the next home fixture, but if I were them I wouldn't be too hasty. Let us see whether the earrings affect form first. Who knows, the cheerful sight of an old warhorse camped up in cheap dress jewellery might be just the spur this once mighty old club needs to look to the future, even if engaged on a purely superstitious level.

Finally, while I'm sure these maverick performers must have their own agenda, they may like to know that at my own club the words "THE DEN" are marked in yellow seats on a blue background, and that the second turnstile along at the South Stand entrance has a notoriously loose bolt upon it.

Giggs cuts corners in motorway madness

■ At a service station on the M11 I find an item that, should it be unearthed by some alien visitor hundreds of years after the bomb has wiped out all human life, will superbly illustrate what a shallow load of crackpots with too much time on our hands we were.

It is the audio edition of Ryan Giggs's book, *My Own Story*. Think about it. Ryan Giggs's splendidly thin and vacant autobiography, which was not *written* by Ryan Giggs, can now be purchased in cassette form not *read* by Ryan Giggs.

Of course, I snap up this priceless piece of pure apple sauce and intend to gaze upon it whenever my mood needs a little lift.

The experience is made just a little giddier when, that very same day, I watch a portion of *Panorama's* breathless special looking into whether big business and commercial concerns are overwhelming football.

Perhaps this sharp-witted programme's ideas team might be interested in a similar exposé examining whether the Earth revolves around the Sun.

Chelsea stage volte-face over fans

■ Honestly, if Ken Bates doesn't start making an effort to look like legitimate opposition, there seems to be little point in our having a feud at all. As it is, anything I write about him and his toffee-nosed team looks like the action of kicking away a blind man's stick or taking three points off Everton.

I mean, how on earth am I supposed to react to his latest cack-handed attempt at getting my attention? I suppose you saw it. Hot on the heels of the humiliating mollycoddling of his squad of Grown Men Who Had To Play In Some Snow, he now screams like the pepper-doused baby in *Alice in Wonderland*, because Sky TV have asked his outfit of coiffeured coxcombs to kick off their FA Cup tie against Manchester United — a dignified team of professionals — at noon instead of 3pm.

"I can't think of one good reason why we should," the old blowhard says. Well, how 'bout that enormous pile of cash Chelsea are happy to trouser from Sky each season, Kenny boy! Give it back to them and kick off any time you like, my old lookalike for the captain of the Titanic!

But, as usual, it's the fans that Ken's heart bleeds for. "We have many out-of-town supporters," The Man With Moss Chops weeps, "how will it affect them?" These would be the same out-of-town supporters that Ken recommended high-voltage fences to keep in line just over a decade ago, would it? Really, the more Ken and his best friend David "The Footy Fan's Friend!" Mellor seek to speak for the "ordinary fans", the more they look like the Princess Royal posing behind a till in Tescos.

Besides, midday kick-off on a Sunday? Who minds that? Where have these out-of-town fans got to come from — Havana? I know it's another argument altogether but, frankly, clubs aren't entitled to "out-of-town supporters".

When I become Minister for Sport, I shall make it the work of my every waking hour to get through Parliament a Bill imposing on-the-spot fines for any person wearing a football shirt of a club outside a ten-mile radius of their home address. The fine may be waived if the individual produces a birth certificate to show the garment is worn for sentimental reasons or if the wearer is, in fact, a professional footballer fulfilling an away fixture. Otherwise, the sting of a £500 penalty should test the shallow loyalties of these disgusting arrivistes.

Meanwhile, Kenny B is probably taking this latest slap in the face to the European Court of Human Rights, while I should be very interested to see just how many sunbed centres and beauty parlours in regions where Chelsea players live have suddenly received cancellations to their regular Sunday morning appointments.

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.

FOOTBALL

Nigeria ignore Venables as coach

By Our Sports Staff

NIGERIA are expected to announce that Bora Milutinovic, the former Mexico coach, will take charge of their side in the World Cup finals, so ending speculation that they would turn to Terry Venables, the former England coach. The decision is dependent on the final approval of General Sani Abacha, the country's ruler.

If approved, Milutinovic would be Nigeria's fourth coach in 20 months. The Olympic gold medal-winners have been without a manager since Philippe Troussier left in August.

It is understood that the Nigerian Football Association favoured Jo Bonfrère, the Dutch coach, but feared Abacha would refuse to accept him. Bonfrere coached Nigeria to their Olympic victory in Atlanta but then resigned shortly afterwards.

Milutinovic was dismissed as coach of Mexico last month, less than a month after helping them to clinch a place in the World Cup finals.

Venables, who failed in his attempt to take Australia to the finals, is under contract with them until next July, but the Soccer Australia said it would allow him time off to lead the Nigerians through the World Cup competition.

Venables yesterday led Australia to a 3-1 victory over Mexico, under their new coach, Manuel Lapuente, in their opening match in the Confederations Cup in Riyadh. Brazil beat Saudi Arabia 3-0 in the other match.

Tunisia, one of England's group opponents in the World Cup, have agreed to play Wales in the build-up to next year's finals. The Tunisians, whose only other World Cup finals apperance was in Argentina in 1978, see Wales as ideal opponents in preparation for their match against Glenn Hoddle's side.

The Tunisian Football Federation has also arranged matches with Chile and Paraguay, which it believes are similar in style to their other group opponents, Colombia and Romania.

CRICKET

Daniels speeds to maiden century against Pakistan

From Thrasy Petropoulos
in Vijayavada

Brittin hits another boundary on her way to scoring 138 during England's victory over Pakistan yesterday

A HOPELESSLY one-sided match ended with England securing their second successive victory in the women's World Cup yesterday and Pakistan perhaps wishing that they had remained in Lahore.

Centuries by Jan Brittin and Barbara Daniels helped England to a massive 376 for two in their 50 overs, surpassing the previous highest total in World Cup matches — 297 for five by New Zealand against Holland at Eden Park — and Pakistan could only manage 146 for three in reply.

An opening stand of 83 in just over 15 overs between Helen Plimmer (36) and Brittin was an appetiser, before Brittin and Daniels feasted on a succession of long-hops and half-volleys.

The landmarks were reached with a speed and precision out of character with life in India: the hundred in the twentieth over; 200 in the thirtieth and 300 in the 41st. By the time that Brittin was out shortly before that final milestone — stumped aiming for her eighteenth boundary — she had added 203 for the second wicket with Daniels, at considerably more than a run a ball. "It was hard going out there," she said. "The wicket was very true, but the heat was intense. I was just pleased to stay out there."

If Brittin's was an innings of craft and determination, Daniels's was a triumph of enterprise and wit. She needed only 103 balls to score 142 not out, including 17 fours and a six, her maiden one-day international hundred.

The Indira Gandhi stadium in Vijayawada had never before staged a recognised international match and, at times, the organisers' inexperience showed. A dozen scorers came up with a dozen different scores, and it took a good deal of plea bargaining to come up with the definitive total at the end. The facilities, however, were impeccable.

There was never any hope of Pakistan threatening the England total, but they applied themselves with a determination lacking in the past and sought predominantly to preserve wickets. Melissa Reynard turned in a useful spell of left-arm seam bowling and claimed two for 36 from her ten overs.

There is a school of thought that says such matches demean women's cricket. Brittin, however, is of a different opinion. "In terms of a spectacle, people want to see good cricket, but these teams need to compete against the rest of us to improve," she said.

England rested Charlotte Edwards, protecting her niggling knee injury, and gave the players who missed England's opening victory against South Africa in Hyderabad an outing. England now return to Hyderabad to take on Denmark tomorrow, with the prospect of another straightforward victory.

SCOREBOARD FROM VIJAYAVADA

ENGLAND

J Brittin st Asma b Shaiza	138
H Plimmer st Asma b Kiran	36
B Daniels not out	142
S Metcalfe not out	35
Extras (b 4, lb 6, w 14, nb 1)	25
Total (2 wkts, 50 overs)	376

†J Cassar, *K Smithies, M Reynard, B Nicholson, C Connor, C Taylor and L MacLeod did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-288.

BOWLING: Shareen Khan 10-0-64-0; †Maliha Hussain 9-0-67-0; Shaiza Khan 9-0-64-1; Kiran Baluch 10-0-73-1; Nazia Sadiq 5-0-45-0; Mehera Minwalla 7-0-53-0.

PAKISTAN

Maliha Hussain b Reynard	13
*Shareen Khan c and b Reynard	41
Kiran Baluch b Connor	22
Shaiza Khan not out	35
†Asma Farzand not out	13
Extras (b 5, lb 4, w 12, nb 1)	22
Total (3 wkts, 47 overs)	146

Nazia Sadiq, Mehera Minwalla, Diba Sherazi, Shazia Kassam, Sadia Bano and Nazia Tabassam did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-67, 2-78, 3-122.

BOWLING: Taylor 7-3-15-0; MacLeod 8-2-12-0; Reynard 10-4-36-2; Connor 10-2-14-1; Smithies 7-1-33-0; Nicholson 8-1-27-0.

Diluted pleasures on tap in desert

Soaked in sun and cash it may be, but the delights of Sharjah leave **Michael Henderson** high and dry

Cricket, so far as many English people are concerned, fits snugly into a world of bucolic cosiness: the village green, the homely pub and, in between showers, the whack of bat on ball. It is a world of stout yeomanry, where the taking part is what counts. The fact that it belongs largely to myth does not diminish its charm. People live by myths. So do nations.

It requires an impressively gymnastic imagination to conjure up anything farther in spirit from that world than the place where England's one-day cricketers are billeted for the next week. Sharjah, one of the seven princedoms that constitute the United Arab Emirates, is a dusty bowl of a place where people work for money, big money. There is no life here that a well-rounded person would recognise, unless you fancy dozing by a swimming pool.

Dubai, where the four teams competing in the Champions Trophy are staying, is linked to Sharjah by a main road on which motorists charge up and down at unreasonable speeds. Twice a day there are traffic jams caused by the people who work in Dubai and live in Sharjah, where the rents are lower.

Because it is a "wet" state, Dubai is a cosmopolitan playground for the rich of the Middle East, populated by Russian prostitutes eager for hard currency, and expatriates of every hue. But for all the money sloshing about, and the curious, indefinable sense of "activity" that money brings, its attractions are cosmetic. If Milton Keynes had sand and camels, and a few international hotels, it might look something like Dubai.

People here like the money that they earn but they also enjoy their home comforts. The other night, for example, it was possible to watch the Juventus v Manchester United game in a cavernous sports bar and wash it down with pints of rather mucky Boddington's (a beer, incidentally, which is more like Manchester City: living on a reputation established many moons ago).

So, gentlemen in England now abed, do not curse yourselves and hold your manhoods cheap you are not here. Some of you, though, might like to follow the cricket and have been denied, so far, by the reluctance of BBC and Sky to offer even a highlights package. Matthew Fleming, whose canny bowling helped England to win the opening match on Thursday, got in a fearful bate yesterday when he considered that such a good-news story, on his international debut to boot, was not available to viewers at home.

Maybe the schedulers have dropped a brick; maybe not. Sport, for better or worse, is the *lingua franca* of our times, which is why everybody has come this week to a small ground on the edge of the desert. To be truthful, not everybody has come. Some of the locals follow cricket, from a distance, but they are not battering the doors down to get in. The drama is being enacted for a bigger audience in other theatres.

There were plenty of Indians in the crowd on Thursday but the English contingent that gathered round a flag of St George was thin. That lot are far more interested in kickball. The only game that is guaranteed to bring a capacity crowd to a ground that reputedly holds 25,000 is the one tomorrow between India and Pakistan, which promises to be a very lively affair, with or without betting scams.

England are very much the Johnnie-come-latelys where Sharjah is concerned. This is only the third of their teams to come here, after two springtime sorties in 1985 and 1987. Pakistan have been here 20 times, India on 13 occasions and even New Zealand, from the other side of the world, have paid five visits.

However unfamiliar it is to them at the moment, England's players will soon be fully acquainted with the Sharjah experience. Next September, at the end of the county season, and a month before the Test party goes to Australia, the ICC is staging a one-day beano here for all nine Test-playing countries, as part of Ali Bacher's plan to improve the game's international development. It will pre-empt the proper World Cup in England by nine months, thereby taking the edge off it, but that is the way the cricket world is going.

So long as television is the cash-cow, somebody will always want to milk it, whether the stumps are pitched in Sharjah, Toronto or, some day soon, that well-known cricketing country, the United States of America, where the public is famously hostile to other people's sports.

Originally, the competition next autumn was going to be held in Disneyland, presumably with Mickey and Minnie Mouse as the umpires. The danger must be that, in the search for big, undiscriminating audiences, the game will become *diluted* to the point when nobody can taste anything. And then what?

That is not the case this week. England played good cricket to beat India, and there are advantages in gaining as much competitive one-day experience as possible before the World Cup. But it would not be wise to come here on a regular basis. It is no more than a bun-fight in the desert, and nobody in his right mind ever eats more than one bun at a time.

Fleming welcomed with open arms into England family

From Michael Henderson
in Sharjah

ENGLAND could not have made a much better start to the Champions Trophy. They beat India the hard way on Thursday, defending a total that should have been bigger, despite a lovely innings from Tendulkar that took India to within eight runs of victory. Having done it, they should go into today's match against West Indies full of beans.

It was a red-letter day yesterday for Matthew Fleming, the Kent all-rounder, who spent part of his 33rd birthday reflecting on his four match-clinching wickets. Alec Stewart was named man of the match for his fine hundred but Fleming, who bowled at the death, ensured that Stewart finished on the winning side.

Although Fleming was an additional selection to the party, after Darren Gough withdrew, the players have serenaded him with *Consider Yourself One of the Family* from the musical *Oliver!* Like Dougie Brown and one or two others, he now knows that good performances this week will get him to the Caribbean next April.

"There was *no* point in coming here thinking I was just making up the numbers," Fleming, who turned professional at the comparatively late age of 24 after spending six years in the Army, said. "I had to come here thinking I had a chance of going to the West Indies but I was realistic enough to know that I was the fourteenth man to be chosen.

"It is good to hear the selectors say there will be some degree of continuity [in the build-up to the World Cup]. The nucleus of the World Cup side is here. Some people will fall by the wayside but others will come on. The spirit in this side is excellent. I remember Chris Cowdrey saying he had to introduce himself to some people when he played for England, but there's been none of that."

Fleming's background has helped to give him a fuller, broader view of life than many professionals, as he admits. "Often they know nothing except cricket whereas I have been more fortunate in having several experiences before I became a cricketer. Even when you are losing, worse things could happen."

England expect to field the same side against West Indies, with Nick Knight batting at No 3, ahead of Ben Hollioake, and Dean Headley preferred to Peter Martin. They complete their matches against Pakistan on Monday.

West Indies break their losing run

WITH Brian Lara playing a leading role, West Indies gained some consolation for their drubbing in the Test series in Pakistan by beating the same opponents by 43 runs in yesterday's Champions Trophy match in Sharjah.

Lara put indifferent Test form behind him with a brilliant innings of 88 from 80 balls to help West Indies post an imposing score of 275 for seven. The young Pakistan opener, Shahid Afridi, threatened to make light of the target as he hit four sixes and six fours in his 67 made from 56 deliveries but West Indies tightened up their work in the field and Pakistan were dismissed for 232.

Lara, who scored only 129 runs in six Test innings in Pakistan, took the bowling apart, hitting three sixes and seven fours before being dismissed in the 46th over. He later caught Saeed Anwar and ran out Afridi with a direct hit from point when Pakistan were cruising at 124 for two in the 22nd over.

Courtney Walsh, the West Indies skipper, who could lose the job after the disasters in Pakistan, took two for 14 in eight demanding overs. "This is just what we needed to get our act together," Walsh said. "I said before the tournament that we could not be written off."

Lara benefited from a rousing start provided by Phillo Wallace and Stuart Williams who put on 81 in 16 overs before Wallace was dismissed by Saqlain Mushtaq, the off spinner, who finished with three for 35. The pace bowlers were harshly treated, although Wasim Akram improved his figures with wickets from successive balls in the final over.

Profession that can turn legends into scapegoats

BRIAN GLANVILLE

The myth of the manager. By turns hero and villain. Now to be prized, now to be blamed. Now worshipped, now ejected. Before the season even started, the 58-year-old Gigi Simone, somewhat surprisingly appointed manager of Internazionale when still in charge of a Napoli team in crisis, was on the verge of losing his job. Massimo Moratti, the club's president, had evidently had enough of him already.

Only two late goals by the Uruguayan substitute. Recoba, saved Inter from ignominious home defeat by little Brescia in their opening Serie A match, and the sack seemed more likely still.

Yet look at Inter now: far and away top of the Campionato, sailing into the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup with an easy 3-0 win last Tuesday against Strasbourg at the San Siro. Though what would have happened to Simone had Inter, who lost the first leg 2-0, been knocked out?

There is reason to believe that all managers have a finite reign. Arrigo Sacchi, for example, was plucked out of the chorus by Milan's owner, Silvio Berlusconi, won trophies galore, became the unpopular coach of an Italy team that still reached the World Cup final of 1994, went back to Milan mid-season, had a disastrous time and was booted out.

Gerry Francis looked, at the time, a stronger candidate for the England managership than Glenn Hoddle, but this season even the endless injuries could not exonerate him from blame for Tottenham's failings. Evidently he himself thought something had gone, for he resigned. Yet when he was succeeded by the little-known Christian Gross, the players, far from responding, as footballers in their naive optimism often do, to the new manager, promptly gave up the ghost against Chelsea.

My favourite relevant anecdote is still the one told by the famous Hungarian coach, Bela Guttman, who twice won the European Cup with Benfica. In 1955, he turned up in the restaurant in Rome where I used to lunch, just sacked by Milan after two consecutive defeats, even though they were still leading the league. "In my next contract," he said wrily, "I shall have a clause; not to be dismissed when the team is top of the league."

Then he told this tale. Some years earlier, Lucchese, a modest Tuscan team, had travelled to Turin to play the mighty Juventus. On the way, their manager died. Desperate, their directors phoned all over Italy for a replacement, and found one, who arrived at the last moment. Lucchese drew 1-1, and the players carried the manager off on their shoulders.

Brian Mears, then chairman of Chelsea, once observed: "I didn't know managers had to be motivated, too." He was referring to Dave Sexton, who had won the FA and the Cup Winners' cups but was finding life hard. The fact is that even the finest managers can run out of steam. Alf Ramsey made a marvellous job with England in the 1966 and 1970 World Cups. But by 1972, when they met West Germany in the European Nations Cup quarter-finals, he was not the same man.

Ferguson, unlike Ramsey and Francis, shows no signs of running out of steam

At Wembley, he chose a midfield without a tackler. Gunter Netzer ran riot and Germany won 3-1. In the return, which he had to win to survive, Ramsey chose an utterly negative team full of hard men, which drew 0-0. "The whole England team," Netzer said, "has autographed my leg." Ramsey lasted almost another two years. It was only on the insistence of the manipulative Sir Harold Thompson, who disliked him, that he was removed.

The achievement of some managers is beyond dispute; Herbert Chapman, at Huddersfield and Arsenal, for example.

When Chapman died, in 1934, he was surprisingly succeeded by the journalist, George Allison, who had scant knowledge of the game. But "below stairs" there was a trainer with the magic hands, Tom Whittaker, whom the players adored. When Whittaker himself became manager in 1947 he began well but ultimately found the job too much. "You need a Tom Whittaker," the ebullient programme editor, Harry Homer, told him.

Alex Ferguson has lasted long and won trophies galore for Manchester United. Yet a couple of years ago, he seemed to have lost his touch, allowing Paul Ince, Mark Hughes and Andrei Kanchelskis to leave the club, with initially drastic consequences.

Even last season, his tactics in Turin, when United hardly competed against Juventus in a European challenge, seemed badly mistaken. Juve won in Manchester, too. This season, despite what happened last Wednesday in Turin, it is Ferguson who has looked the masterly figure. Not many managers, however, can rise above themselves like that, and not many get the opportunity.

This week, **Mark Hodkinson** takes time to reminisce with a Barnsley player from a bygone age

Look back to world of difference

JUSTIN SLEE / GUZELIAN

John McCann with the constant reminder of his playing days with Barnsley in the late Fifties, although he has not revisited Oakwell since

Barnsley, 1956-57 (from back row, left): Sharp, Bartlett, Hough, Short, Houghton, Swift; Kaye, Smith, Chappell, Wood, McCann

LIFE AT THE TOP

We expect our sporting heroes to be immortal. They should live for ever in the moments of their glory — young, supremely fit, blithe, free from the stress that encumbers an everyday life. Footballers, especially, are perceived as forever people, their huge wages sanctioning a life of eternal youth and opulence. When their careers are over, we do not expect to see them at the greengrocers or working in a factory. In our dreams, they remain a race apart, young and glamorous, frozen in time.

John McCann is in the small kitchen of his house in Barnsley, quietly thumbing through the pages of his scrapbook, stopping occasionally to linger over a photograph. There are two John McCanns present. One is 63 and recently made redundant after 26 years in a carpet factory. The other, staring out from a picture, is a handsome, dark-haired professional footballer, sweeping past defenders, the crowd roaring at his back. "That's me playing at Charlton," he says. He comes across a clean photograph of the Barnsley team from 1957 — young men, arms crossed, ready to do battle — and says: "Four of that team are dead now. Bobby Wood had a bad stroke and died . . ." There is, thankfully, one success story. "The big lad at the back, Duncan [Sharp], has done all right for himself. He has got his own haulage company," McCann said.

In the old pictures, there is the inventory of football — the kits, players, crowd, an earnest pursuit of the ball — but the game and the lifestyle it perpetuates has since transmogrified. McCann talks about the modern game, but it is clear that it is beyond his ken and reach. "It has changed drastically since I played," he said. "I used to be a ball player, but it is all one touch now and so quick. Most of the players comfortable on the ball are foreigners."

McCann began his career as a winger with Bridgeton Waverley, a Scottish junior side. He was working as a trainee manager at his local Co-op when Barnsley offered him a professional contract for £17 per week. He left his home city of Glasgow and arrived in Yorkshire in December 1955, lodging with an elderly couple.

There was no gymnasium at Oakwell, so training sessions took place outside. They trained whatever the weather and he cannot recall a single cancellation. During the pre-season, players took part in "fast walking", trudging through the streets of Barnsley in the July sunshine. "We used to do five or six miles. They always found us plenty of hills," McCann recalled. "I remember one, Hound Hill. Oh God, I can see it now."

McCann found the club an extremely hierarchical structure and though he sometimes used to see the Barnsley chairman, Joe Richards, and the board of directors, the players considered these men in overcoats to be "like gods". After four years at Oakwell, he was told by one of these "gods" that a transfer to Bristol City had been arranged. He was sold for £21,000, a handsome profit on Barnsley's initial investment of less than £1,000.

The training at Bristol was eccentric. In practice matches, McCann often found that there was no opposition; they would merely run forward, pass the ball between themselves and score goals at will. "It was silly. I thought, 'God almighty, what's this in aid of?'," he said. In a facetious mood one morning, he deliberately kicked the ball out of play, knowing this would effectively end the game since there was no opponent to take the throw-in. "I was sent for an early bath and I never made the first team again after that," he said.

He moved on and later played for Derby County, Huddersfield Town and Chesterfield before returning to Barnsley to set up a business with his brother-in-law as a panel beater and sprayer. The venture did not materialise, so McCann took a job at Shaw Carpets in Barnsley, where he remained until his redundancy. "It was strange doing an ordinary job to begin with, but it became all right," he said.

Surprisingly, despite living a mile from Oakwell, he has not been back since the day that he was transferred. He was playing golf when they clinched promotion to the FA Carling Premiership last April. He is "happy" that they have done so well, but his sense of detachment from it all is extraordinary.

His wife, Eileen, returns and, while her husband has his picture taken in another room, she talks about life as a footballer's wife. She does not mention glory, wealth or kudos, but remembers "standing outside in the pouring rain after matches, not even offered a cup of tea". She rues that players were not given any help for a life after football. Suddenly, she asks why anyone is interested in him after all this time. It would take too long to explain.

Struggle goes on for man who beat system

JEAN-MARC BOSMAN may have singlehandedly changed the face of sport and brought the football authorities to book, but he has paid a heavy personal price for his achievement. Two years after the European Court of Justice's "Bosman ruling" changed forever the transfer system and caused the scrapping of limits on the number of foreign players a club could employ, Bosman himself is counting the cost of his five-year legal campaign.

"I'm glad it ended successfully, but at what price? It's been very tough for me," Bosman said. "Now I'm trying to organise my life. I sacrificed everything and I must sort everything out, earn a living, although unfortunately not on the pitch any more."

Bosman's case started in 1990, when his Belgian club, FC Liége, blocked a transfer to Dunkirk and later suspended him. Bosman took Liége, the Belgian football federation and Uefa to court. A Belgian appeals court sought the Court of Justice's advice and still has to rule on the amount of damages he should receive.

The legal battle ruined Bosman, now 33, forced him to live in his parents' garage for nearly two years, and wrecked his marriage. "I had the trial, problems, couldn't find a job any more, didn't make a living and you know how it works in a couple. I can't say the trial was the only reason, but it certainly contributed. Lack of money speeds up these things," he said.

Bosman survived with appearance money from television networks and support from players' unions. He is now claiming 23 million Belgian francs (about £385,000) in damages from Uefa and the Belgian football union although he expects the union to foot the whole bill and hopes a settlement will be reached without a further court case.

A quick deal would also be convenent given that the European championships are to be held in Belgium and Holland in 2000. Bosman, who turned down two earlier settlement offers, said: "This trial could still linger on for two years, it would be bad publicity for Belgium in the run-up."

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Off the line

by Russell Kempson

Turner looks to past for future

TIMES are hard at Hereford United, whose creditors have become increasingly itchy since the club slipped into the Vauxhall Conference last season. So, Graham Turner, Hereford's director of football, hit upon the idea of an auction of football memorabilia to help to swell the ailing Edgar Street coffers. He has had a good response, too, with almost every club in the FA Carling Premiership contributing to the cause.

Everything goes under the hammer at The Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford tomorrow at 2.30pm (viewing 11am) and includes signed shirts from Alan Shearer and David Beckham, autographed first-day covers from Stanley Matthews and a Scotland v Brazil match programme signed by Pelé. Even Graham Taylor, who did not enjoy the most cordial of relationships with Turner after he replaced him as manager at Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1994, has given freely. Taylor, now with Watford, has provided several mementoes from his days as the England manager, although it is not known whether they include an autographed turnip.

Rough justice

When Bristol Rovers opened a new shop in the city, Pirate Leisure, they hoped that it would provide a more accessible outlet for all those supporters who did not want to trek to the Memorial Ground in Horfield. Unfortunately, it also attracted the type of fan who visits uninvited in the middle of the night and a burglar alarm had to be fitted pronto. Nick Britton, of the Rovers commercial department, was dispatched to sort it out and was feeling rather pleased with his handiwork until he returned home. His house had been broken into.

As Adrian Viveash, the Walsall defender, sits back over Christmas and contemplates his two-match suspension, he is perhaps hoping that Robert Styles, the referee from Waterlooville, is not saddled with any more Walsall fixtures this season. Styles was responsible for four of Viveash's bookings. "What has he got against me?" anguished Adrian said. "Is it my style of play he doesn't care for?"

Ruud food

Little seems to ruffle the smooth sophistication of Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, and, consequently, his cool image is in much demand. He recently launched his own brand of leisurewear and has been enlisted by a well-known restaurant chain to plug its product.

Gullit will be seen on screen trying to sign a mysterious Italian-sounding player who — surprise, surprise — turns out to be a pizza. It took him only seven takes to get it right, which shames the efforts of Gareth Southgate, alongside Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle. After 27 attempts, Southgate finally heard the magic words: "It's a wrap." Gullit's fee for such professionalism is believed to be not unadjacent to £30,000.

Switched on

Football is big in Burkina Faso and the Government is doing its best to bring the 1998 African Nations' Cup finals into the sitting-rooms of the people. To ensure a wider audience for the competition, which is being staged in Ouagadougou, the capital, and Bobo-Dioulasso from February 7 to 28, remote villagers will be provided with televisions at a price guaranteed by the Government. For those communities that cannot receive the signals, satellite dishes will be sold tax free.

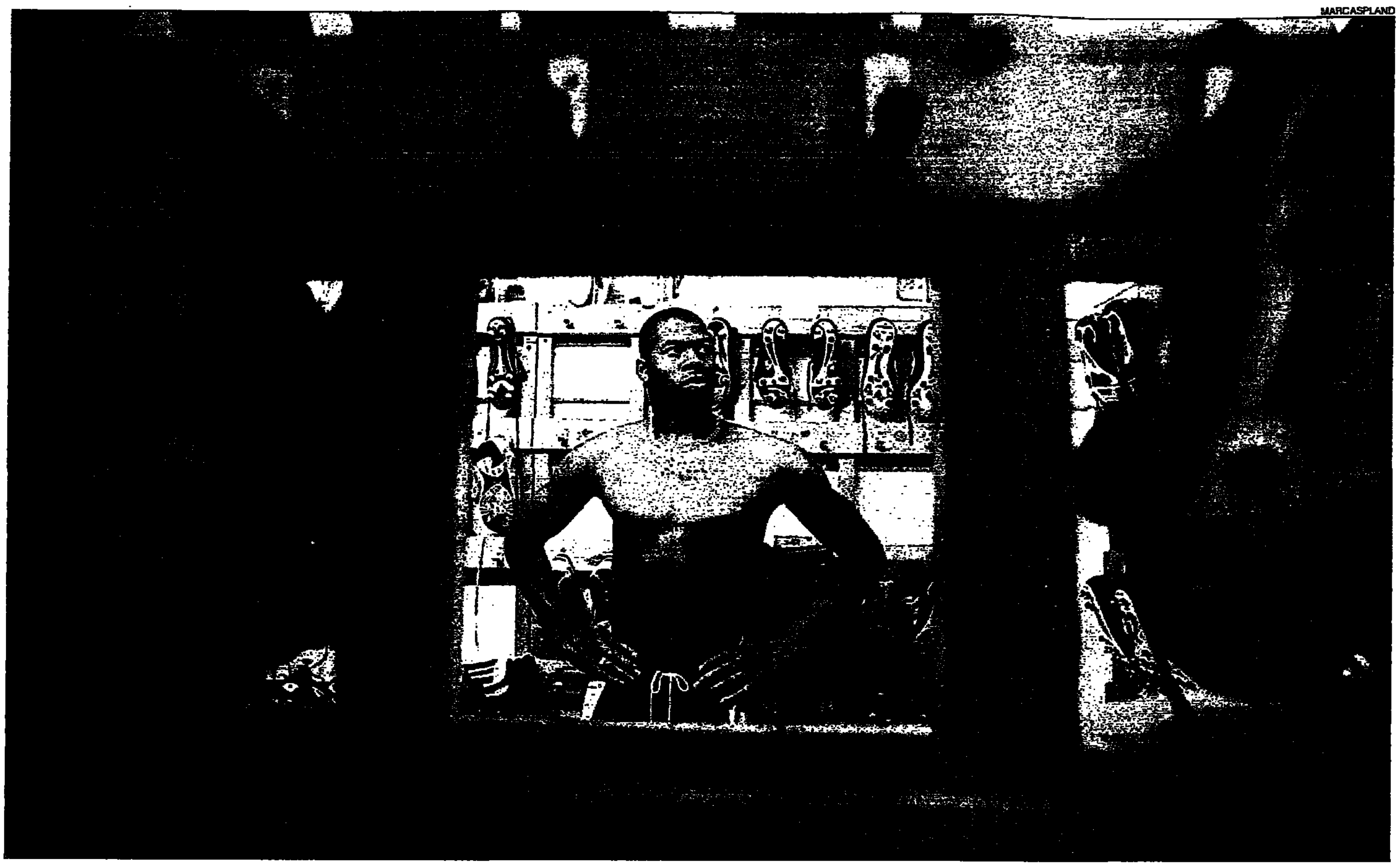
STRANGE BUT TRUE: Aston Villa are the most prolific collector of corners in the Premiership. In 17 matches, they have amassed 128 — four more than Chelsea.

مكبر من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Duberry resists idol pleasures

The precocious Chelsea defender knows that winning trophies is more important than winning plaudits


MARCASPLAND

Window of opportunity: Duberry's long lay-off with injury has seen him forsake the trappings of stardom and focus on a career that could yet be crowned with a place in the World Cup finals

OLIVER HOLT

It is a tumultuous place usually, the upper deck of the glorified pavilion that the Chelsea players retire to after a hard morning on the training pitches. The persistent clink of cutlery on china mixes with guffaws as they eat at the rows of trestle tables, and in the midst of the babble the Italians make parodies of themselves with extravagant greetings of "*Ciao*, baby."

On Thursday lunchtime, though, it was quiet. Gianfranco Zola had wandered in to look at a couple of golf clubs that someone had brought him. He took a few practice swings. Graeme Le Saux had nipped in to grab a sandwich. And, in a far corner, Michael Duberry had caught the mood, too. He was talking quickly and intently, oblivious to whatever might have been going on around him.

Even in repose, his heavy features were creased with determination. A black woollen hat was pulled down over his forehead so that it almost reached his eyebrows, emphasising the set of his face. He talked with a studied humility surprising in one so precociously talented, but through the north London lilt of his voice the ambition to emulate those among his peer group who have already progressed to the England squad burned through.

"It just gives you more of an incentive," Duberry said. "You look at Sol Campbell and Rio Ferdinand and you say: 'That's where I want to be.' That's the incentive. I am fit again now and I have got to build on what I had before my injury. I have to keep learning, keep listening to those around me. That is my target, to get into the England squad. If I set that as my standard then I will develop as a player anyway, even if I don't make it."

Most believe that Chelsea's towering central defender would have made it already were it not for the Achilles tendon injury that brought his startling progress to a shuddering halt in January and ruled him out for the rest of the season. As Duberry travelled the long road back to fitness, Campbell established himself at the heart of the England defence and Ferdinand rocketed out of the ranks at West Ham United and into the plans of Glenn Hoddle, the England coach.

Now that he has recovered, though, Duberry is staking his claim. After the World Cup draw ten days ago, Hoddle mentioned him in a group of four young players — the others were Ferdinand, Michael Owen and Emile Heskey — that he would like to take a closer look at in the six months between now and naming his final squad for France.

Duberry, 22, the commanding presence that Chelsea need to complement the more elegant but more fragile defending of Frank Leboeuf, knows that the next five days — Chelsea play Leeds United at Stamford Bridge this afternoon and the England under-21s take on Greece at Carrow Road on Wednesday night — could greatly advance his cause.

More than that, though, he is aware that it is his attitude, his determination to stay focused and to concentrate wholly on his game that hold the key. He can sense the dangers in the adulation that surrounds him and the rest of Ruud Gullit's team as they chase Manchester United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, and he is steeled to give them a wide berth.

"Suddenly, things can start changing around you when you are in the first team," Duberry said. "The main thing is the way people look to you. People see you all of a sudden as an idol, as a big thing. You don't see yourself as anything, but if you start believing all that, you start getting carried away and thinking that you are this big shot that everyone looks up to, and that's when it starts changing you.

"But, if you have got the right people around you and you are strong enough in yourself, it is easy to keep your feet on the floor. I look at people like Mark Hughes and Luca Vialli. They are big superstars and have won a lot of things, but they are two of the most down-to-earth people I have ever met. They could be here giving it big time but they just get on with it and play the game.

"The only time I would start getting big time is when I am 35 or 38, I have represented my country and won a World Cup. When you have been there and done it, people can't really tell you anything. You have got the medals and the trophies to back your talk up. In the meantime, if you have strong friends and family to keep you down, it is all right.

"I heard what Glenn Hoddle said about me last week. It makes you feel that he is taking note of you. But you cannot read too much into it and start thinking: 'I'm there.' I know from the time when he was here as manager. When I started breaking into the team, he said: 'You're playing well but you're not there, you've done nothing.'

"In the same way, the stage that I'm at now, I've done nothing really. I'm 22, but compared to Nicky Butt, Phil Neville and Gary Neville, they have won championships, they are playing for England, so I have not really accomplished like them. OK, I have played a few games for Chelsea, impressed a few people, won a few under-21 caps. But, if I was to end tomorrow, I would not have accomplished anything.

"It is all there for the taking. The worst thing I can do is get complacent. I just have to keep switched on and not fall in to the trap of believing everything in the papers. It would be so much better to get there and read the headlines that Michael Duberry is starring in the World Cup than ones that say I am a prodigy waiting to get to the World Cup."

Duberry's hunger to force himself into the England reckoning has been fed by his exile from the Chelsea team that won the FA Cup last season. While Zola, Leboeuf and the rest went all the way to Wembley, Duberry was still nursing his Achilles, forced into an idle role for the biggest day in the club's recent history.

"I read all the headlines, but there was no Duberry in the side and it felt strange," he said. "Even now, we get asked to sign the team picture from that day and my face is not there."

He counts himself lucky that during his lay-off he had much to occupy his mind. He moved to a new house to the north of London and in June his girlfriend gave birth to their first child, a daughter, Kayci. Domestically, he could not be happier, and now he is ready to redouble his devotion to football.

A product of Enfield Grammar School and the Chelsea youth team, he is also walking, talking proof that the influx of high-profile foreigners effected by Gullit has not stifled the progress of talented young British players at the west London club. For Duberry, in fact, their presence has been a spur.

"It has helped everyone having the foreign players here," he said. "Look at it since Ruud has taken over. He must have given about six or seven young players their debuts — Mark Nicholls, Jody Morris, Neil Clement, Stevey Hampshire, Nick Crittenden, Joe Sheerin. He is bringing them through at the same time. When you have got a player like Franco Zola playing, you are going to lift your game because you don't want to let him down, you don't want to let yourself down, you want everyone to see that you can handle it. It lifts everyone's game.

"The mix and blend of the whole camp is really good. The only thing that is stopping us from going all the way to the title this season is ourselves. We have dropped some silly points which could have been avoided, but we have just got to stay focused. We have got to see ourselves as a big side and realise that everyone is going to try to want to beat us. We have got to adopt a mentality of killing off sides. Manchester United are the standard everyone has got to look to and if they slip up, they slip up."

Duberry grew up idolising Des Walker, then of Nottingham Forest, and now considers Tony Adams to be the leading defender in the country. As far as forwards go, he names Ian Wright, Les Ferdinand, Duncan Ferguson, Stan Collymore and Teddy Sheringham as the most difficult to defend against. Each presents his own problems, but if Duberry can subdue them this season, the door to France is likely to swing open.

"The World Cup has got to be a target for every English player in the Premiership," he said. "My aim is to stay injury-free for the rest of the season, keep playing well and hopefully impress someone in the England set-up and get involved at some stage. But, if it doesn't happen, I will be a better player for it and I will still only be 22.

"I never really worried about whether people would forget about me when I was injured. I knew I would be back and, anyway, it was only a small setback. At the end of the day, I have got no problems in life. A problem is when you are struggling to find food for the next day. That is a problem."

Clubs pay for foreign fixation

By David Maddock

IT IS the time of year when turkeys come home to roost. FA Carling Premiership managers, at the start of the Christmas rush of matches, are beginning to experience the downside of their fixation with all things foreign.

That old chestnut, the club versus country row, has reared its head again, but with a new slant, because the countries involved include South Africa, Australia, the United States and Costa Rica.

Yesterday, Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, and Danny Wilson, his counterpart at Barnsley, discovered that there are hidden costs to apparently cheap imports. Todd was close to apoplexy when he discovered that he would lose Mark Fish, his central defender, for the match against Derby County tomorrow. Fish has been called upon by South Africa to appear in the Continental Cup, a two-week tournament in Saudi Arabia.

Fish was due to fly back to join up with Bolton this week after international duty before flying on to Riyadh on Monday, but South Africa reversed an earlier decision and took him straight to Saudi Arabia.

"What really annoys me is that South Africa told me that Mark would be free to play on Sunday," Todd said. "If they had said he couldn't play at first, that would have been fine, but to do this is totally unacceptable behaviour for an international team."

Wilson was also furious. Eric Tinkler, Barnsley's South Africa international midfield player, will face Newcastle United today, but will then travel to Saudi Arabia to join up with his country. "It is a totally irrelevent competition," Wilson said. "The lad is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea because he wants to do well for us but he has to recognise his country. Clive Barker [the South Africa coach] doesn't understand the intensity of competition in the Premiership.

"What South Africa are asking Eric to do is play five games in the next nine days before our busiest period of the year. It is crazy, and Fifa must take some of the blame. It is their competition — why have they scheduled such an irrelevent competition at this time of the year?"

Leeds United are also affected. They will lose Lucas Radebe, a South Africa defender, and Harry Kewell, of Australia. Leicester City lose Kasey Keller, their United States goalkeeper. But it may be merely the start of a tide of resentment against the loss of foreign players to international commitments. In February, the US will play host to five nations, including Costa Rica and Holland, in the Gold Cup, another Fifa-registered tournament, in Florida. Arsenal will lose Marc Overmars for two weeks and Derby County will be deprived of Paulo Wanchope. Keller is also likely to be involved again.

A spokesman for the Dutch football association confirmed that the tournament would be used as preparation for the World Cup and that Overmars would be involved, although Dennis Bergkamp, his club colleague, would escape because he refuses to fly.

Newcastle eager to sign Croatia forward

By David Maddock

NEWCASTLE United have made an offer of £3.5 million for Igor Cvitanovic, the Croatia forward. Cvitanovic impressed Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, when he scored against them for his club, Croatia Zagreb, in the qualifying round of the European Champions' League.

A spokesman for Zagreb said last night: "Newcastle have made us an offer, but we will consider the situation carefully before offering a response."

Dalglish is searching for a versatile player who is equally at home on the left flank or in a more forward position. The 27-year-old performs one role for his club, the other for his country. Cvitanovic, though, is struggling to satisfy the Government's strict policy on work permits. He has become a regular international in recent months, but has not played 75 per cent of his country's matches over the past two years.

Middlesbrough attempted to buy the player earlier in the season, but failed to obtain a work permit. Liverpool no longer have that problem with their offer to Dynamo Kiev for the services of Alexander Golovko, the Ukraine international defender. The bid, in the region of £3 million, has been rejected.

Grigori Surkis, the president of Kiev, confirmed the Liverpool interest, and also suggested that an English club, possibly Manchester United, had made a $20 million offer for Andrei Shevchenko, the Kiev forward, which had also been rejected. "We have had massive bids but we are not interested in selling," Surkis said.

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, has received two separate offers from consortia hoping to buy out his controlling interest in the club. Johnson has been offered £45 million by the competing groups, but indicated that he would sell only at the figure of £100 million — double the stock market value of the club.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, will fly to Argentina this weekend to watch Marcello Salas in action once again for River Plate. Ferguson hopes to complete a £12 million deal for the Chile international before the turn of the year.

Robson refusing to rest on his laurels

By Russell Kempson

FEW sides in the Nationwide League can better the consistency of Middlesbrough, the first division leaders, and few pundits would bet against them collecting another three points at the expense of lowly Reading at the Riverside Stadium today. Middlesbrough have won 16 of their 25 league and cup games this season and lost only three.

Confidence has gradually returned since their acrimonious departure from the FA Carling Premiership seven months ago and they took over at the top of the table for the first time after the 1-0 victory against Bury at Gigg Lane last Saturday. Emerson is not leaving for the sunnier climes of Tenerife — "It's all nonsense, as usual," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said yesterday — and the casualty list down by the Riverside is easing, too.

"We've got good momentum at the moment and we've just got to keep it going," Robson said. "We might be top but there's always room for improvement. We've got funds available and, if we're able to find players that I think can improve on what we've got here, we'll try to sign them." However, he discounted rumours linking him with Dion Dublin, the Coventry City striker.

Reading's recent record is marginally less impressive — only three defeats in 16 matches — and they will perhaps be looking to gain psychological brownie points before their Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final against Middlesbrough at Elm Park in the new year.

Terry Bullivant, the Reading manager, has completed the signing of Gareth Davies, the Crystal Palace defender, for £175,000 and he is expected to make his debut against Middlesbrough.

Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, yesterday apologised to the club's long-suffering supporters for the errors he has made this season. "I'm still learning my trade as a manager and I'm sorry one or two things haven't worked out the way I would have liked them to," he said. "Even though I've made some mistakes, I feel I've made more good decisions than bad ones." Portsmouth visit their fellow strugglers, Ipswich Town, today.

Brighton's plight near the foot of the third division will not be helped by the fact that they have abandoned overnight stays — to save money — for all bar the longest of journeys. They were due to leave early this morning for the 200-mile trek to take on Mansfield Town.

Hearts arrive at moment of truth

By Kevin McCarra

FOR football clubs, the passage from one year to the next can be a rickety bridge. Heart of Midlothian will be more aware than most this December of the consequences of a false step, since a team at the top of the Bell's Scottish League premier division has furthest to fall. The next few weeks are, by tradition, a treacherous time.

A glance at the fixture list confirms that the Edinburgh club has come to a series of moments of truth. This afternoon, they face Celtic in Glasgow and next weekend they play Rangers at Tynecastle. The exacting spell, however, has already begun with a 0-0 draw in a demanding game at Dundee United on Tuesday.

The evidence of that match was ambiguous, with Hearts more capable of concerted play, yet failing to manufacture chances and seeing the opposition miss the few opportunities of the evening. Nonetheless, it was the first occasion this season on which Jim Jefferies' side has not scored. Accordingly, it would be premature to treat that draw as proof of sterility.

Hearts have performed better than the Old Firm, as their positions in the table demonstrates. However, two of their three defeats in the league have been inflicted by Rangers and Celtic. Today in Glasgow, Hearts will set out to demonstrate that an inferiority complex does not enfeeble them whenever they face their two principal rivals, and they are not alone in having questions to answer.

Celtic's victory at Pittodrie on Tuesday was only their second in the past six league matches. In the attempt to make his team a more consistently telling force, Wim Jansen, the head coach, has now signed the prolific Harald Brattbakk from Rosenborg Trondheim for £2.2 million.

The Norwegian forward made a good impression in his first training session with his new team-mates yesterday. Nonetheless, Jansen is rarely inclined to rush his acquisitions into action and Brattbakk may have to content himself with a place on the substitutes' bench today. The most celebrated forward in Glasgow at present, though, need have no doubts over his involvement.

Marco Negri, scorer of 30 goals this season, has recovered from injury and will attempt to continue the marauding for Rangers against Dunfermline Athletic at East End Park. His availability comes as a relief to his club, who are without the suspended Paul Gascoigne and the injured Brian Laudrup. Having conceded 28 goals to Rangers in their past six meetings, Dunfermline may wish there had been a few more casualties in the opposition's ranks. Should Rangers win and Hearts lose, the Ibrox club will assume the lead in the premier division.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

ARSENAL v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Peter Robinson

Roy Hodgson had a warning for Manchester United. "Their biggest danger is thinking that they are clearly better than the others," he said. "There are a lot of good teams left in the tournament and just because they have had a good qualifying competition doesn't mean that they will win it. To read the press, you would think it was just a question of them turning up." He was talking about the European Cup, but he could have been talking about the FA Carling Premiership.

Nobody doubts that, as of now, United are the best team in the country. If the league were to end tomorrow, they would be worthy winners — but it does not. It ends in May. If you imagine the season thus far to be the qualifying competition, sorting the contenders from the rest, then the real championship race is just coming under starter's orders.

There are few games more interesting today than the encounter at Highbury between Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers, contenders both. Indeed, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, would echo the sentiments of his opposite number to the syllable.

Write Arsenal off as would-be champions? In December? Especially as their sticky patch of injuries, suspensions and an Ian Wright goal famine, such as it was, appears to be coming to an end. Vieira, for example, much-missed in midfield, returns to the squad after a knee injury; Bould, too, after a three-match suspension, while Wright scored the winner at Newcastle United last week, bringing to a welcome end the psychobabble that has surrounded his recent barren spell. He will play today, obviously, but Vieira and Bould may have to be content with places on the bench. A win at St James' Park is not to be sniffed at — ask Dynamo Kiev.

And Hodgson's Blackburn? They will be without Duff, their 18-year-old Irish winger, who is suffering from a thigh injury, although whether he would have played is another matter. He was marvellous last week, but Arsenal away is a different matter, one that suits the more prosaic talents of Wilcox on the left. James Beattie, a teenage striker, is included in the squad for what would be his second game for Blackburn — his first was against Arsenal 14 months ago — after a fine season in the reserves, scoring 15 goals. "James has done well," Hodgson said. "He has worked hard at his game but we should remember that there is a vast difference between reserve and Premiership football."

ARSENAL (probable: 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, D Platt, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, I Wright.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable: 4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, G Croft — S Ripley, W McKinlay, T Sherwood, J Wilcox — K Gallacher, C Sutton
Referee: G Willard

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home win.

Striking the wrong note: Rush, left, failed the Italian Job in Turin, while Fleck's league goals cost Chelsea £700,000 each

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

STRIKING A BARGAIN

Stan Collymore and Les Ferdinand must be the most precious strikers in the FA Carling Premiership just now: Collymore's two goals in 13 league games for Aston Villa have cost £3.5 million each, while Ferdinand's three in 11 for Tottenham Hotspur are a real snip at £2 million a time. Here are some other forwards who have been found wanting in the value-for-money department:

1. Andrea Silenzi (Nottingham Forest)
More A-reg Sierra than Serie A. The Italian scored precisely zero times in 12 league outings. Still, what else could you do with £1.8 million?

2. Gary Penrice (Aston Villa)
A rare foray into the transfer market by Dr Josef Venglos produced one goal in 20 games at a cost of £1 million.

3. Paul Goddard (Millwall)
Ever wondered why Millwall are in such deep financial trouble? Their £800,000 investment in Goddard produced one goal in 20 games.

4. Alan Dickens (Chelsea)
Back in the days when Chelsea still signed English players, Dickens cost £550,000. One goal in 48 games was his "return".

5. Justin Fashanu (Nottingham Forest)
Old Cloughie knew a bargain. The other Fashanu's three goals in 32 games came at more than £300,000 each.

6. Ian Rush (Juventus)
Seven goals in 29 games at £457,000 apiece was not exactly Juve's most astute piece of business.

7. Terry Gibson (Manchester United)
Big Ron was getting desperate — Gibson's one goal in 23 games cost United £650,000 and the quipmeister his job.

8. Robert Fleck (Chelsea)
Ken Bates's then rarely-seen chequebook was flourished to spend £2.1 million on Fleck, who managed just three goals.

9. Dean Saunders (Liverpool)
A British record £2.9 million took the curly-haired one to Anfield. Luckily, Doug Ellis generously took him off their hands after his league goals cost £263,000 apiece.

10. Daniel Amokachi (Everton)
Just about the only striker not to turn Mike Walker down, the Nigerian scored ten times in 43 league games — not good for £3 million.

11. Duncan Ferguson (Rangers)
Rangers paid £4 million for Big Dunc. After contributing an un-Negri-like two goals in 14 league games, he was off to Goodison.

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

CHELSEA v LEEDS UNITED

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt

Fresh from their thrashing of Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane last Saturday, Chelsea will draw level with Manchester United — who are idle until Monday night, when they play Aston Villa at Old Trafford — at the top of the FA Carling Premiership if they beat the obdurate Leeds United side fashioned by George Graham at Stamford Bridge this afternoon.

With Graeme Le Saux restored to the side after dislocating an elbow, Michael Duberry back at the heart of the defence, Gianfranco Zola in the sort of form that dazzled the rest of the league last season and Tore Andre Flo coming off his hat-trick against Spurs, Chelsea are brimming with confidence.

They know that United are the standard they have to aim at. They know, realistically, that Alex Ferguson's side will have to slip up to let them in. But the defeat of the English champions in Turin on Wednesday was the first hint of vulnerability from them for some time, and with Chelsea facing two matches against them in the FA Cup and Premiership, both at Stamford Bridge, in the face of a few weeks early next year, suddenly they appear to be within reach.

Whether Zola and Flo line up against Leeds, of course, depends on which attacking permutation Gullit plumps for this week. With Mark Hughes suspended, his options are slightly more limited than usual but his rough rotational system would suggest at least some sort of role for Gianluca Vialli, who has been restricted to the occasional spectacular performance this season.

Leeds, though, even if they have shed the parsimonious tag they earned last season and have played their part to the full in a couple of seven-goal thrillers, are still primed to play the role of spoilers. They have already beaten United and Blackburn Rovers this season and Chelsea know they will be tough opponents.

It is likely to be close but, if Chelsea really are genuine title contenders, this match will test their mettle.

CHELSEA (probable: 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, E Newton, D Wise, R di Matteo — G Vialli, G Zola.
LEEDS UNITED (probable: 3-5-2): N Martyn — G Halle, L Radebe, D Wetherall — G Kelly, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, B Ribeiro, D Robertson — R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink.
Referee: G Poll.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Narrow Chelsea win.

BARNSLEY v NEWCASTLE UNITED

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Richard Hobson

Their European adventure over for this season, Newcastle United must become more consistent domestically if they are to enjoy continental football in 1998-99.

Despite having matches in hand on the leading pack, and even allowing for dreadful luck with injuries, Kenny Dalglish, the manager, must have imagined that his side would be higher than ninth place as the FA Carling Premiership nears its halfway stage.

Although Pearce provides a barking deterrent against complacency, the defence remains too prone to the occasional calamitous moment to compensate for the dilution of flair at the other end. Interestingly, Newcastle have conceded more goals than they have scored this season.

Pistone has not recovered from the back injury sustained in Wednesday night's European Cup Champions' League win against Dynamo Kiev. Beresford, conveniently, is fit again, though, and Asprilla will be good for an hour as his comeback continues.

For Barnsley, the bottom club with a goal difference of minus 29, Markstedt is over a neck problem to resume his place in defence while Tinkler is available after playing for South Africa against Brazil last weekend.

BARNSLEY (possible: 5-3-2): L Leese — N Eaden, A Moses, P Markstedt, A Krizan, D Barnard — N Redfearn, J Bosancic, B Sheridan — A Liddell, A Ward.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (possible: 5-3-2): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, S Pearce, J Beresford — K Gillespie, D Batty, R Lee — J Barnes, F Asprilla.
Referee: P Alcock.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: *Newcastle to improve their goal difference.*

COVENTRY CITY v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Today, 3.0

Nick Szczepanik

No wonder people have noticed the resemblance between Christian Gross, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, and the Pink Panther movies' Inspector Dreyfuss, as played by Herbert Lom.

As if a defence that played like a collection of Clouseaus (or should that be Clouseaux?) against Chelsea last week were not enough to give anyone a nervous twitch, Tottenham's injury list is growing again, with Scales and Howells definitely out and Campbell playing despite a damaged shoulder; furthermore, Vega, the central defender who has scored two of the team's past three goals, is suspended. The manic cackle will be the next sign.

On the plus side, Anderton is likely to start at Highfield Road today, where Spurs confront a Coventry team who also lost heavily at Villa Park last Saturday, and who were dire in their previous home game, against Leicester City. Paul Williams, shown two yellow cards against Aston Villa, joins Boland on the Coventry suspended list, but McAllister, injured a fortnight ago, is expected to return.

However, no matter who plays, it is impossible to imagine either of these teams failing to concede at least one goal.

COVENTRY CITY (possible: 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, T E Soltvedt, N Whelan, M Hall — D Huckerby, D Dublin
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable: 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, C Calderwood, S Campbell, C Wilson — R Fox, A Nielsen, D Anderton, A Sinton — L Ferdinand, D Ginola.
Referee: S Dunn.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A shot in the dark — revenge of the pink panther. Spurs win.

CRYSTAL PALACE v LIVERPOOL

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Brian Glanville

Palace's wretched home form suggests that Liverpool, though well beaten last week by Manchester United at Anfield, will not lose this one. Word that Liverpool's boot-room tradition is to be abandoned, and that honest Roy Evans will be replaced at the end of the season by a foreign coach, prompts the question: by whom? A Gullit, a Wenger, a Gross?

The return of Ince from suspension will hugely strengthen the Liverpool midfield. Babb is available again and could play alongside Matteo in central defence, given Kvarme's fearful and costly error against United.

Jones is fit again at last to play at right back, but McAteer, though more winger than full back, has done well in his absence. The double spearhead of those gifted young Liverpudlians Fowler and Owen could get more change out of Palace's somewhat permissive three-man defence than they did out of United's.

It would be good at last to see Palace's Italian duo of Lombardo and Padovano, a former Juventus pair, on show together. Lombardo, injured in training with Italy, has a 50 per cent chance of playing, as have Roberts, the influential midfielder, and Dyer, injured a fortnight ago in a challenge with another Italian, Newcastle's Pistone.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable: 3-5-2): K Miller — A Linighan, P Warhurst, H Hreidarsson — M Edworthy, A Roberts, A Lombardo, S Rodger, D Gordon — M Padovano, N Shipperley
LIVERPOOL (probable: 4-4-2): D James — J McAteer, P Babb, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye — J Redknapp, P Ince, S Macmanaman, O Leonhardsen — M Owen, R Fowler.
Referee: N Barry.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Liverpool win

EVERTON v WIMBLEDON

Today, 3.0

David Maddock

It has been an interesting week in the life of Everton Football Club, what with tales of hotel romps involving players, and the little matter of an Annual General Meeting.

It is hard to decide which produced more fireworks. Monday night's meeting probably shaded it, with Peter Johnson, the chairman, offering a robust defence of his regime in the face of a hostile audience.

Johnson's was a far more polished performance than we have seen from his team this season. He silenced his detractors with the sobering fact that he has spent in the region of £40 million to raise Everton to the heights of second from bottom in the FA Carling Premiership.

The upshot of the meeting, however, was that there is no more money to spend, and thus Howard Kendall will be forced to field the teenager, Cadamarteri, for the next three matches while Ferguson serves a suspension. Bilic is also bannedfor five matches, but at least Kendall had the foresight to trawl the bargain basement well in advance and bring in Carl Tiler.

Perry and Ceri Hughes are suspended for Wimbledon, and with Ekoku still injured, the visitors look weaker than they have done for many seasons.

EVERTON (5-3-2): T Myhre — M Ward, C Short, D Watson, C Tiler, A Hinchcliffe — G Farrelly, D Williamson, G Speed — N Barmby, D Cadamarteri
WIMBLEDON (probable: 4-4-2): N Sullivan — D Jupp, K Cunningham, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — N Ardley, R Earle, S Solbakken, M Hughes — M Gayle, C Cort.
Referee: G Ashby.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICITION: Too much Christmas spirit leads me to a home win.

SOUTHAMPTON v LEICESTER CITY

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Russell Kempson

When the mandarins of the Football Association debated their new disciplinary system during the summer, little did they consider the abuse it would encounter. It appeared reasonably straightforward: five bookings equals suspension and five successive completed matches without a yellow card automatically erases one of the cautions.

Since it was introduced, though, the smart Alecs of the Premiership have cleverly exploited a loophole. If one of their players is on four bookings and has also gone four consecutive games without one, they simply give him a run-out in the reserves to "lose" one of his cautions.

Hence the appearance of Muzzy Izzet, the Leicester City midfield player, in the Filbert Street stiffs' 1-0 midweek victory against Oldham Athletic. Izzet not only scored the goal but also finished the game card-free. Mission accomplished.

Izzet reappears at The Dell this afternoon no longer under the threat of immediate suspension should he step out of line, and Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, also has the two Steves, Walsh and Guppy, available again after injury. Emile Heskey returns, too, his three-match ban having been served.

Southampton's sequence of four wins from five outings in October and November has perhaps already been exposed as no more than a mirage by three successive defeats. The substitution of a lacklustre Matthew Le Tissier after only 55 minutes of the 1-0 defeat by Wimbledon on Sunday does not bode well, either. His chances of appearing for England in the World Cup finals in France next year appear to be receding by his every languid minute.

SOUTHAMPTON (possible: 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — K Richardson, C Palmer, M Le Tissier, M Oakley — D Hirst, K Davies.
LEICESTER CITY (probable: 3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — S Claridge, E Heskey
Referee: S Lodge.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Leicester too strong.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

WEST HAM UNITED v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Today, 3.0

Ivo Tennant

The marked difference between West Ham United's form at Upton Park and elsewhere is alarming Harry Redknapp, their loquacious manager, every bit as much as it is their supporters. "Horrendous, horrendous," was how he described their eighth away defeat against Derby County last weekend. Yet, even though Sheffield Wednesday have been rejuvenated by Ron Atkinson's invigorating presence, it will be no surprise if they are defeated by another goal or two from John Hartson today.

West Ham have some grandiose ideas. They are intent on becoming the first club in the FA Carling Premiership to form their own academies in Australia, a country which has a deserved reputation for nurturing sporting talent of its own — if not, as yet, in football. The club has already established strong links through Lazaridis, their winger, and Slater, their former midfield player. Perth and Sydney are the two cities they are focusing on. And to think that Upton Park was once *the* academy.

Wednesday have won their first three matches under Atkinson's guidance, which their players attribute as much to fear for their own futures, after their poor start to the season, as to any particular change in direction at the club.

Atkinson is likely to name a team unchanged from that which beat Barnsley on Monday, although Newsome has recovered from a groin strain. Atherton is suspended and Wednesday's new signing, Niclas Alexandersson, who cost £750,000 from IFK Gothenburg, will probably be among the substitutes.

The key to this match will, perhaps, be the form of Hartson, the leading scorer in the Premiership. Against Derby, he looked sullen, and there were scarcely veiled hints by Redknapp that he was starting to take too much notice of his own publicity and, conceivably, that there was interest being shown in him from overseas. Yet it has to be said that his manager, in comparing him with Geoff Hurst, hardly helped.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable: 4-3-1-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge — G Whittingham, W Collins, P Rudi — B Carbone — A Booth, P di Canio
WEST HAM UNITED (probable: 3-5-1-1): L Miklosko — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — T Breacker, F Lampard, S Lomas, J Moncur, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic — J Hartson
Referee: M Riley

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: West Ham to win — just.

BOLTON WANDERERS v DERBY COUNTY

Tomorrow, 4.0

Matt Dickinson

The last time Bolton visited the FA Carling Premiership they went straight back down. Lovely football, everyone said, but a soft touch. Well, no one is calling them soft now.

Alan Thompson's dismissal during the defeat against Blackburn Rovers last week was their fifth red card of the season. Per Frandsen and Nathan Blake have also been sent off, along with Gerry Taggart and Andy Todd for fighting (although no one who punches Stan Collymore can be all bad).

Dean Holdsworth is due to start a two-match suspension after tomorrow, likewise Scott Sellars, and Thompson is only one booking away from an extended ban.

Colin Todd, the manager, of course claims that there is a big difference between a dirty team and one that is "hard to beat". "We are not dirty at all," he said. "I think it has got to the stage where our reputation goes before us, so people are looking out for things."

Bolton have defensive problems, which have not amused Todd. He will have to play a less than fully fit Gerry Taggart after all but accusing the South Africa national team of kidnapping Mark Fish. The centre half was due to fly back from a friendly against Brazil before disappearing again to Saudi Arabia, but failed to appear with excuses about no flights available.

Bolton have a good chance of moving up the table tomorrow against a Derby team who have conceded four goals in each of their past three away games — at Liverpool, Leeds and Chelsea — while remaining unbeaten at Pride Park. Moreover, County will travel to the Reebok Stadium without Jacob Laursen and Robbie van der Laan.

Jim Smith yesterday dismissed suggestions of a swap deal taking Dean Sturridge to Everton with Andy Hinchcliffe moving in the other direction, although he may change his mind if several million pounds were added. More likely is a deal involving Aljosa Asanovic, who has caught the eye of Celtic since losing his place in the Derby line-up because of the rule of only three non-EU players.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable: 4-4-2): G Ward — G Bergsson, G Taggart, M Whitlow, A Todd — S Sellars, P Frandsen, J Pollock, A Thompson — D Holdsworth, N Blake
DERBY COUNTY (probable: 3-4-3): M Poom — G Rowett, I Stimac, D Yates — C Powell, L Carsley, S Eranio, C Dailly — F Baiano, P Wanchope, D Sturridge
Referee: U Rennie

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm.
■ PREDICTION: Derby's defence to crack again. Bolton victory.

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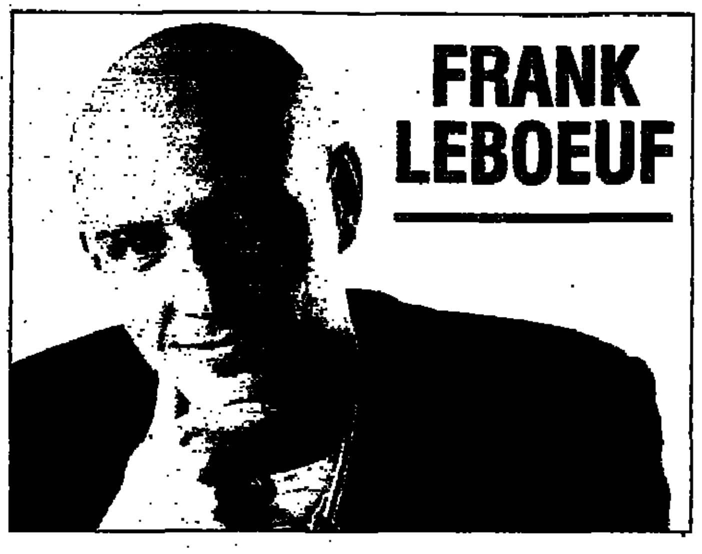
FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Let's keep our heads after luck of draw puts world at our feet



FRANK LEBOEUF

There is another trophy, on top of the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup and Cup Winners' Cup, that could yet be paraded around Stamford Bridge before next season. What price the World Cup being part-owned by a Chelsea player by July 12?

Don't bet against it, because with a couple of England internationals, two Italians, a Romanian, two Norwegians, a Dutchman, a Nigerian and myself, a Frenchman, it is a real possibility. We probably only need to sign a Brazilian or German to be 100 per cent sure.

I was intrigued to see the World Cup draw in my home town of Marseilles last week. As well as the actual groupings, it is fascinating to see what one televised ceremony has done to the people of France. Before the draw, it is fair to say that interest in the tournament had been negligible. The public was underwhelmed by it all, and that had shown in the crowds watching the national team.

Suddenly, without a ball being kicked, the talk is of nothing else. Everyone is arguing over who can win this group, or who will be knocked out of that group. It has gripped the whole of France, especially as my compatriots were very satisfied with how it finished.

No one can be too cocky — remember how Cameroon beat Argentina in the opening game in 1990 — but South Africa, Denmark and Saudi Arabia are countries that we can face with a certain degree of confidence. Certainly, our situation feels more comfortable than England's, despite what has been said over here.

Romania remain a very competitive team who have matured together over many years. Remember, they were the first side to qualify from Europe. Colombia, too, deserve great respect. If nothing else, they will be inspired by the fear of defeat or giving a goal away after the tragedy of 1994 when Andres Escobar was shot dead after scoring the own goal that saw them eliminated.

England have not been given the worst draw — that probably fell to Spain, who must face Bulgaria, Nigeria and Paraguay — but it is by no means a foregone conclusion.

■ Up for the Cup

There seems to have been more talk about draws than football matches recently, with the FA Cup third round pitching us, spectacularly, against Manchester United in the new year. I swear Steve Clarke is clairvoyant. As we travelled back from the 6-1 victory at Spurs, he was telling anyone who would listen that we were certain to draw our Old Trafford rivals. Twenty-four hours later, bingo!

Some people will no doubt try to turn it into a grudge game after there was talk of trouble in the tunnel when we played at Old Trafford earlier this season. As professionals, we must put such things aside and devote all our energies and concentration to winning.

That encounter, however, did teach us that you cannot afford to let your guard slip for a second against United. We were leading right until the end and felt we could win, until Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored with an unbelievable shot to make it 2-2. We won at Old Trafford the season before, though, so we know we are capable of beating them.

While it will undoubtedly be an emotional and frantic match for the fans, the players will not be under any illusions that the result has anything to do with the outcome of the Premiership. People will try to say that victory will set that team up for the rest of the season, but that is not how footballers' minds work. There are too many variables.

Which brings me to Chelsea's position, second in the Premiership and three points behind United. I think it is fair to say that not many people could see us bothering the champions and threatening to steal their crown earlier this season. After the first four or five games, there were already many questions being asked about our credentials as challengers.

I hope we are starting to show that people should bite their tongue and that short-term conclusions are dangerous. If those professional pundits had waited five months instead of five matches, they could have seen what is happening at Chelsea.

We have not won anything yet, but it seems amazing that people were so quick to criticise Gianfranco Zola, for example, and say that he was not the same player as last season. I think that the last couple of weeks have shown that he is still the Zola who can turn games with a stroke of genius.

Much the same can be said of the defence, which took real criticism from the start when we lost 3-2 away to Coventry City. Now we have the fourth best defensive record in the Premiership.

That is not to say that we cannot improve and this is a very important month. December is such a vital time in the English league, with so many games crammed together over Christmas, and we must keep the winning going to stay up with the leaders.

It just amazes me that people are so quick to judge, though. At least they are talking about us, I suppose. We must be doing something right. What is worse than indifference?

■ Happy Christmas

Talking of Christmas, this will be my last column before Christmas Day. As I mentioned above, it is not an easy time for footballers because of all the games played in such a short space of time. No other country in Europe insists on anything like it. Here, matches on Boxing Day mean training the day before, when everyone else is sat around the tree opening presents.

At this time of year, as a footballer, it is very easy to become preoccupied with work and forget your family duties. Being a foreign player, it makes it even harder, because you are separated from those closest to you back home.

Last year, my father had a heart scare and now my father-in-law has a similar problem, so my wife and I are doing our best to be close to them. We are praying for good health and I wish you all a good Christmas and happiness for you and your families.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	Played	Points	Goal diff	HOME					AWAY					Last 10 matches W-D-L	Current streak
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	17	37	+30	7	1	0	27	4	4	3	2	16	9	6-2-2	W3
2. CHELSEA (2)	17	34	+23	6	0	1	16	6	5	1	4	25	12	7-0-3	W3
3. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3)	17	33	+12	6	2	1	20	10	3	4	1	10	8	5-4-1	W1
4. ARSENAL (5)	17	30	+13	5	2	1	18	4	3	4	2	13	14	4-3-3	W1
5. LEEDS UTD (4)	17	30	+7	4	2	3	13	11	5	1	2	13	8	7-2-1	D1
6. LEICESTER CITY (6)	17	27	+7	3	5	2	12	9	4	1	2	10	6	3-4-3	D1
7. DERBY COUNTY (9)	16	26	+6	6	2	0	19	5	2	0	6	11	19	5-2-3	W1
8. LIVERPOOL (7)	16	25	+10	5	0	3	19	9	2	4	2	8	8	5-1-4	L1
9. NEWCASTLE UTD (8)	15	24	-1	5	2	2	12	10	2	1	3	6	9	3-3-4	L2
10. WIMBLEDON (11)	17	22	-2	3	2	5	11	14	3	2	2	8	7	4-2-4	W1
11. WEST HAM UTD (10)	17	22	-4	6	0	1	16	6	1	1	8	8	22	4-0-6	L1
12. ASTON VILLA (14)	17	21	-4	4	1	3	11	12	2	2	5	8	11	3-3-4	W1
13. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (15)	17	21	-8	5	1	3	17	13	1	2	5	13	25	5-1-4	W4
14. CRYSTAL PALACE (12)	17	20	-5	0	3	4	5	11	5	2	3	12	11	2-5-3	D1
15. BOLTON WANDERERS (13)	17	19	-11	3	4	1	5	3	1	3	5	8	21	3-3-4	L1
16. COVENTRY CITY (16)	17	17	-11	2	6	1	10	10	1	2	5	3	14	1-5-4	L3
17. SOUTHAMPTON (17)	17	16	-7	4	1	4	15	13	1	0	7	5	14	4-0-6	L3
18. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (18)	17	16	-14	3	2	4	8	14	1	2	5	6	14	2-2-6	L1
19. EVERTON (20)	17	13	-11	3	1	4	11	13	0	3	6	5	14	1-3-6	D1
20. BARNSLEY (19)	17	13	-30	2	1	5	8	18	2	0	7	7	27	2-1-7	L2

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	43	2.53
2. Chelsea	41	2.41
3. Derby	30	1.87
4. Arsenal	31	1.82
5. Blackburn	30	1.76
=. Sheffield Wed	30	1.76
7. Liverpool	27	1.69
8. Leeds	26	1.53
9. West Ham	24	1.41
10. Leicester	22	1.29
11. Newcastle	18	1.20
12. Southampton	20	1.18
13. Wimbledon	19	1.12
=. Aston Villa	19	1.12
15. Crystal Palace	17	1.00
16. Everton	16	0.94
17. Barnsley	15	0.88
18. Tottenham	14	0.82
19. Bolton	13	0.76
=. Coventry	13	0.76

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	19	12
Aston Villa	7	12
Barnsley	8	5
Blackburn	24	8
Bolton	6	7
Chelsea	17	24
Coventry	6	7
Crystal Palace	9	8
Derby	14	16
Everton	6	10
Leeds Utd	15	11
Leicester	8	14
Liverpool	6	21
Manchester Utd	17	26
Newcastle	9	9
Sheffield Wed	14	16
Southampton	7	13
Tottenham	7	7
West Ham	7	17
Wimbledon	6	13

SCORERS

	Goals
Hartson (West Ham)	11
Sutton (Blackburn)	11
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	10
Cole (Manchester Utd)	10
Wright (Arsenal)	10
Baiano (Derby)	9
Gallacher (Blackburn)	8
Wallace (Leeds)	8
Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	7
Davies (Southampton)	7
Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	7
Dublin (Coventry)	7
Fowler (Liverpool)	7
Sheringham (Manchester Utd)	7
Zola (Chelsea)	7
Berkovic (West Ham)	6
Blake (Bolton)	6
Wanchope (Derby)	6

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Everton	38	3
2. Coventry	37	3
3. Arsenal	38	1
=. Leeds Utd	38	1
5. C Palace	36	2
6. Bolton	33	4
7. Chelsea	32	3
8. West Ham	35	0
9. Derby	34	0
10. Blackburn	29	3
11. Sheffield Wed	28	2
12. Liverpool	26	1
=. Tottenham	26	1
14. Southampton	27	0
=. Manchester Utd*	27	0
16. Wimbledon	25	0
=. Barnsley	25	0
18. Newcastle	22	1
19. Leicester	20	1
20. Aston Villa	18	1

* red card downgraded to yellow

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Red
1. M Reed	7	33	1
2. G Willard	9	40	3
3. P Durkin	11	46	2
4. G Barber	9	36	3
5. D Elleray	9	37	1
6. U Rennie	10	40	1
7. S Dunn	7	28	1
8. G Ashby	8	31	1
9. P Alcock	8	31	0
=. M Bodenham	8	31	0
11. G Poll	10	35	3
12. J Winter	10	33	2
13. M Riley	9	29	2
14. N Barry	9	28	1
15. P Jones	8	23	2
16. A Wilkie	10	27	2
17. K Burge	8	23	0
18. D Gallagher	10	24	2
19. S Lodge	9	19	0

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	13	0.76
2. Leicester	15	0.88
3. Liverpool	17	1.06
4. Chelsea	18	1.06
=. Blackburn	18	1.06
=. Arsenal	18	1.06
7. Leeds	19	1.12
8. Wimbledon	21	1.23
9. Newcastle	19	1.27
10. Crystal Palace	22	1.29
11. Aston Villa	23	1.35
12. Bolton	24	1.41
=. Coventry	24	1.41
14. Derby	24	1.50
15. Everton	27	1.59
=. Southampton	27	1.59
17. Tottenham	28	1.65
=. West Ham	28	1.65
19. Sheffield Wed	38	2.23
20. Barnsley	45	2.65

CLEAN SHEETS

	Clean sheet	Failed to score
Arsenal	7	5
Aston Villa	5	6
Barnsley	3	6
Blackburn	7	3
Bolton	7	6
Chelsea	7	2
Coventry	5	8
Crystal Palace	4	5
Derby	4	4
Everton	4	8
Leeds Utd	5	7
Leicester	7	4
Liverpool	5	2
Manchester Utd	9	3
Newcastle	4	3
Sheffield Wed	4	1
Southampton	3	7
Tottenham	5	9
West Ham	1	4
Wimbledon	3	5

HOME

Attendance	Average	% full
Arsenal	37,998	99%
Aston Villa	35,591	90%
Barnsley	18,453	100%
Blackburn	24,124	77%
Bolton	24,003	96%
Chelsea	33,002	99%
Coventry	18,857	80%
Crystal Palace	22,725	86%
Derby	24,919	83%
Everton	35,577	89%
Leeds	34,969	87%
Leicester	20,121	94%
Liverpool	37,408	98%
Manchester Utd	55,129	98%
Newcastle	36,713	100%
Sheffield Wed	26,099	65%
Southampton	15,174	100%
Tottenham	26,449	80%
West Ham	24,977	96%
Wimbledon	16,510	63%

AWAY

Attendance	P	Average
Arsenal	9	30,012
Aston Villa	9	27,246
Barnsley	9	29,712
Blackburn	8	28,826
Bolton	9	22,403
Chelsea	10	30,070
Coventry	8	27,980
Crystal Palace	10	25,785
Derby	8	29,125
Everton	9	29,079
Leeds	8	23,278
Leicester	7	28,222
Liverpool	8	30,054
Manchester Utd	9	32,018
Newcastle	6	28,423
Sheffield Wed	8	28,773
Southampton	8	26,970
Tottenham	8	29,277
West Ham	10	29,352
Wimbledon	7	27,047

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites

Club	Website
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk
Barnsley	www.yorkshire-web.co.uk/bfc/BFC.HTML
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufo
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * *denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) † Arsenal v Blackburn
(2) † Barnsley v Newcastle
(3) † Chelsea v Leeds
(4) Coventry v Tottenham
(5) *† Crystal Palace v Liverpool
(6) Everton v Wimbledon
(7) † Southampton v Leicester
(8) West Ham v Sheffield Wednesday

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Birmingham v Manchester City
(10) Bradford v Bury
(11) Charlton v Port Vale
(12) Huddersfield v Norwich
(13) Ipswich v Portsmouth
(14) Middlesbrough v Reading
(15) Sheffield Utd v Swindon
(16) Stockport v Tranmere
(17) Stoke v Crewe
(18) Sunderland v West Bromwich

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	21	12	6	3	35	17	42
Nottm Forest	21	12	6	3	34	18	42
West Bromwich	21	12	4	5	25	17	40
Sheff Utd	21	10	8	3	31	20	38
Swindon	21	11	4	6	30	28	37
Charlton	21	10	5	6	40	29	35
Sunderland	20	9	6	5	30	21	33
Stockport	21	9	5	7	35	29	32
Wolverhampton	21	9	5	7	27	25	32
Bradford	21	7	9	5	21	21	30
Birmingham	21	7	7	7	21	17	28
* QPR	21	7	6	8	26	33	27
Port Vale	21	7	5	9	25	26	26
Stoke	21	7	5	9	24	28	26
Norwich	21	7	5	9	20	31	26
Reading	21	6	6	9	21	31	24
Tranmere	20	6	4	10	27	29	22
Man City	21	5	6	10	23	25	21
Ipswich	20	4	9	7	22	24	21
Bury	21	4	9	8	21	30	21
Portsmouth	20	5	5	10	25	32	20
* Oxford Utd	21	5	5	11	24	32	20
Huddersfield	21	5	5	11	21	34	20
Crewe	21	5	3	13	24	36	18

* not including last night's match

Second division

(19) Brentford v Blackpool
(20) Burnley v Wigan
(21) Carlisle v Fulham
(22) Chesterfield v Luton
(23) Gillingham v Southend
(24) Plymouth v Millwall
(25) Preston v Northampton
(26) Walsall v Bournemouth
(27) Watford v Bristol City
(28) Wycombe v Oldham
(29) York v Wrexham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	21	15	4	2	38	14	49
Bristol City	21	14	3	4	38	17	45
Oldham	21	9	7	5	36	27	34
Chesterfield	21	8	9	4	22	17	33
Millwall	20	9	5	6	27	21	32
Northampton	21	8	8	5	23	15	32
York	21	8	6	7	26	24	30
Bournemouth	21	7	9	5	23	21	30
Blackpool	21	8	5	8	29	32	29
Wrexham	20	7	8	5	27	23	29
Preston	21	8	4	9	27	21	28
* Bristol R.	21	7	7	7	27	29	28
Fulham	21	7	7	7	24	23	28
* Grimsby	20	7	7	6	23	18	28
Gillingham	21	7	6	8	26	30	27
Walsall	20	7	5	8	22	24	26
Wycombe	21	5	8	8	28	33	23
Wigan	20	6	4	10	28	33	22
Southend	21	6	4	11	21	38	22
Plymouth	21	4	9	8	24	29	21
Luton	20	5	6	9	21	31	21
Burnley	21	4	8	9	23	31	20
Brentford	21	4	7	10	21	34	19
Carlisle	21	4	4	13	24	41	16

* not including last night's match

Third division

(30) Barnet v Macclesfield
(31) Cardiff v Peterborough
(32) Chester v Darlington
(33) Hull v Colchester
(34) Lincoln v Hartlepool
(35) Mansfield v Brighton
(36) Notts County v Doncaster
(37) Rochdale v Swansea
(38) Rotherham v Torquay
(39) Scunthorpe v Scarborough
(—) Shrewsbury v Leyton Orient

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln	21	11	7	3	23	16	40
Peterborough	21	10	9	2	39	19	39
Notts County	21	10	8	3	29	21	38
Exeter	21	9	8	4	30	23	35
Scunthorpe	20	9	6	5	28	24	33
Rotherham	21	8	8	5	34	31	32
Barnet	21	9	5	7	31	28	32
Hartlepool	21	7	11	3	30	23	32
Scarborough	21	9	4	8	32	30	31
Chester	21	9	4	8	31	27	31
Torquay	21	8	7	6	31	30	31
Macclesfield	20	7	9	4	28	20	30
L Orient	21	7	7	7	21	19	28
Colchester	20	7	6	7	29	28	27
Cardiff	20	5	12	3	20	19	27
Shrewsbury	20	7	5	8	31	30	26
* Camb Utd	21	5	9	7	28	28	24
Mansfield	21	6	6	9	26	26	24
Rochdale	21	7	2	12	24	26	23
Swansea	21	6	3	12	22	32	21
Darlington	20	4	8	8	23	30	20
Hull	21	5	4	12	28	39	19
Brighton	21	3	6	12	15	29	15
Doncaster	21	1	6	14	14	49	9

* not including last night's match

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Cheltenham v Morecambe
(—) Farnborough v Yeovil
(—) Gateshead v Stevenage
(—) Hereford v Hednesford
(—) Kettering v Welling
(—) Leek v Halifax
(—) Northwich v Southport
(—) Rushden and Diamonds v Dover
(—) Slough v Kidderminster
(—) Stalybridge v Telford
(—) Woking v Hayes

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Celtic v Hearts
(41) Dunfermline v Rangers
(42) Hibernian v Aberdeen
(43) Motherwell v Dundee Utd
(44) St Johnstone v Kilmarnock

First division

(45) Ayr v St Mirren
(46) Dundee v Stirling
(47) Greenock Morton v Falkirk
(48) Hamilton v Airdrie P
(49) Partick v Raith

Second division

(—) Clydebank v Inverness CT
(—) East Fife v Brechin
(—) Forfar v Livingston
(—) Stenhousemuir v Stranraer

Third division

(—) Arbroath v Cowdenbeath
(—) Berwick v Montrose
(—) East Stirling v Albion
(—) Queen's Park v Alloa
(—) Ross County v Dumbarton

Tennents Scottish Cup
First round

(—) Fraserburgh v Clyde

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v St Leonards; Bath v Burton Albion; Bromsgrove v Salisbury; Crawley v Merthyr; Dorchester v Cambridge City; Forest Green v Nuneaton; Gresley v Ashford; Hastings v King's Lynn; Rothwell v Halesowen; Sittingbourne v Tamworth; Worcester City v Gloucester. Southern division: Baldock v Tonbridge Angels; Bashley v Erith and Belvedere; Cirencester Town v Cinderford; Clevedon v Fisher London; Dartford v Weston-super-Mare; Havant v Trowbridge; Margate v Newport AFC; Newport IoW v Witney; Waterlooville v Fleet T. Midland division: Brackley Town v Stafford; Grantham v Corby; Hinckley Utd v RC Warwick; Ilkeston v Bedworth; Redditch v Bilston; Shepshed D v VS Rugby; Solihull Boro v Raunds T; Stourbridge v Paget R; Sutton Coldfield Town v Moor Green; Wisbech Town v Evesham.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham v Kingstonian; Dulwich v Basingstoke; Enfield v Hitchin; Gravesend and Northfleet v Bishop's Stortford; Hendon v Walton and Hersham; Heybridge v Harrow; Oxford City v Dagenham and Redbridge; Purfleet v Carshalton; St Albans v Bromley; Sutton United v Aylesbury; Yeading v Boreham Wood. First division: Abingdon Town v Romford; Aldershot Town v Maidenhead; Barton Rovers v Wokingham; Billericay v Leatherhead; Bognor Regis v Thame Utd; Chertsey v Grays; Croydon v Wembley; Hampton v Worthing; Leyton Pennant v Berkhamsted; Uxbridge v Staines; Whyteleafe v Molesey. Second division: Edgware v Bracknell; Egham v Canvey Island; Horsham v Barking; Hungerford v Windsor and Eton; Marlow v Wivenhoe; Banstead v Bedford T; Northwood v Metropolitan Police; Tilbury v Chalfont St Peter. Third division: Croydon v Wingate and Finchley; East Thurrock v Dorking; Epsom and Ewell v Ware; Harlow v Clapton; Hornchurch v Tring; Kingsbury v Ford Utd; Lewes v Hertford; Southall v Hackwell Heath.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Altrincham; Alfreton v Colwyn Bay; Barrow v Winsford; Blyth Spartans v Hyde; Boston v Bamber Bridge; Chorley v Spennymoor; Emley v Marine; Gainsborough v Bishop Auckland; Lancaster v Leigh RMI; Radcliffe v Runcorn. First division: Belper Town v Ashton United; Congleton v Gretna; Droylsden v Netherfield; Farsley Celtic v Eastwood Town; Flixton v Lincoln United; Matlock Town v Great Harwood; Stocksbridge PS v Harrogate Town; Whitby v Worksop; Whitley Bay v Bradford PA Avn; Workington v Albion.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Connah's Quay (2.30); Bangor City v Cwmbran (2.0); Barry v Welshpool (2.30); Caernarfon v Ebbw Vale (2.30); Carmarthen Town v Rhyl (2.0); Cemaes Ynys Mon v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30); Conwy v Rhayader Town (2.30); Flint Town v Caersws (2.30); Porthmadog v Haverfordwest (2.30); TNS v Newtown (2.0).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Shamrock (7.30); Sligo v Kilkenny (7.30).

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

Bolton v Derby (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

Wolverhampton v Nottingham Forest (1.0)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chelmsford v Weymouth.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Dundalk (3.15); Cork v Drogheda (2.0); UCD v Derry (3.15).

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal v Wembley (12.0); Croydon v Liverpool (2.0); Millwall v Doncaster (2.0). Northern division: Arnold v Blyth Spartans; Aston Villa v Garswood St Helens; Huddersfield v Bloxwich Town; Sheffield Wednesday v Ilkeston. Southern division: Ipswich v Wimbledon; Leyton Orient v Barry; Rushden and Diamonds v Whitehawk; Southampton Saints v Three Bridges.

COVERAGE

TELEVISION: BBC1: Today: *Football Focus*, from 12.20pm; *Match of the Day*, from 10.50pm (repeated tomorrow at 7am). Channel 4: Tomorrow: *Football Italia*, Internazionale v AS Roma (live), from 1.10pm. Sky Sports: 1: Today: *Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook*, from 5.30pm. Spanish League, Barcelona v Español (live), from 7pm. Tomorrow: Premiership, Bolton v Derby (live), from 3pm. 2: Tomorrow: Nationwide League, Wolverhampton v Nottingham Forest (live), from 12pm. 3: Tomorrow: Spanish League, Tenerife v Atlético Madrid (live), from 6.30pm.

RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Today: Live commentary (tbc) in *Sport on Five*, from 1pm. Tomorrow: Live commentary on Wolves v Nottingham Forest and Bolton v Derby in *Sunday Sport*, from 1pm.

IT'S THE NEW AWAY STRIP

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

SAILING

Leaders seeking to stamp authority over short course

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

AFTER two legs and two months of the Whitbread Round the World Race, we are still a long way short of a clear picture of which of the leading seven boats are going to be in the hunt for overall honours by the time the fleet returns to Southampton in May.

Today, the Whitbread 60s begin the first of four short legs in the nine-leg regatta, as they set sail from Fremantle for Sydney, a journey of some 2,250 miles, which should take the leading boats around nine days. Perhaps by then we will have a better idea about which crews have the edge, though another peculiar pattern could assert itself on a fleet in which the boats seem to be very closely matched.

Grant Dalton, skipper of *Merit Cup*, who will be desperate to put the horrible memories of the previous leg behind him, when he was seventh into Fremantle, believes the class acts have yet to rise above the also-rans. "It's so mixed up with the changes from the first leg to the second leg, I couldn't really split it apart at this stage and say where the form is," he said before the start. "One would have really expected to be able to do so by now, but we're sort of in a haze still of not knowing."

The experience of the first two legs has driven home to skippers and navigators that the smallest slip or lucky break with conditions can lead to big gains in boats that respond dramatically to even marginal increases in wind pressure. Even on this short leg, with the Australian coast cramping the course and, thus, restricting options, early gains may well be turned into race-winning positions.

So far, only one boat, *Innovation Kvaerner*, skippered by Knut Frostad, of Norway, has managed to compile two top-three finishes and is the narrow overall leader from *EF Language*, skippered by Paul Cayard, which won the first leg but slipped to fifth in the second. If Frostad's experience tells us anything, it is that being prepared to sail your own race and not simply setting out with a conservative strategy of trying to stick with the pack can pay dividends in this race.

Although the mid-fleet overall positions remain close, with only 11 points separating Lawrie Smith, on *Silk Cut*, in third place, from his fellow Briton, Paul Standbridge, on *Toshiba*, in sixth place, there is no doubt that the pressure for results is beginning to build for some crews and could influence tactics.

Smith knows that he is very lucky to be third overall after two fourth places, and he will be keen to get on the podium for the first time in Sydney. This will help to dispel the impression that *Silk Cut*, while fast, is not a contender for overall honours.

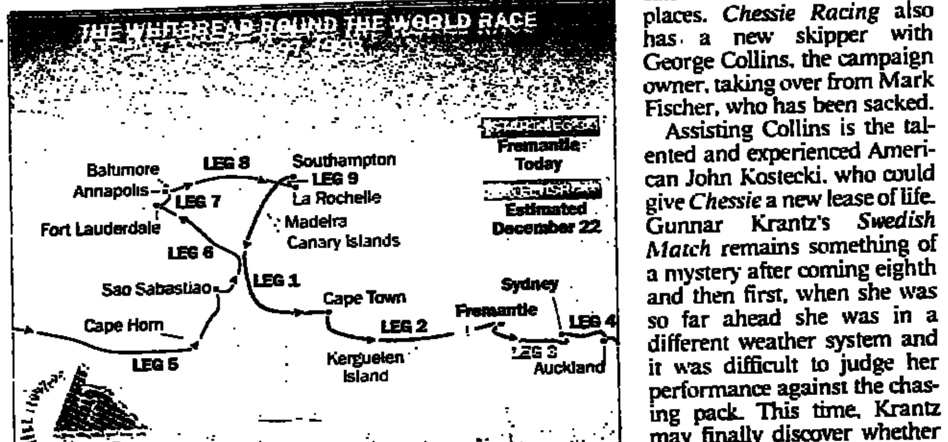
The big worries for Smith must be Frostad and Cayard. With 40 and 30-point margins respectively over him, both could again prosper on this leg. Frostad's strong team on *Kvaerner* is bolstered with the arrival of the multiple Olympic medal-winner Torben Grael, of Brazil, who with Marcel van Triest, the navigator, completes a formidable afterguard on the Norwegian boat. Cayard, meanwhile, is likely to do well in a relatively short-course race and starts with the best routing advice in the fleet for this leg, from Roger "Clouds" Badham, the Australian meteorologist, who is working exclusively with the *EF* campaign.

Other boats to watch are *BrunelSunergy*, which has four new crew on board, including Roy Heiner, the skipper, who will be anxious to prove that the lone non-Farr boat in the nine-strong fleet can do better than two last places. *Chessie Racing* also has a new skipper with George Collins, the campaign owner, taking over from Mark Fischer, who has been sacked.

Assisting Collins is the talented and experienced American John Kostecki, who could give *Chessie* a new lease of life. Gunnar Krantz's *Swedish Match* remains something of a mystery after coming eighth and then first, when she was so far ahead she was in a different weather system and it was difficult to judge her performance against the chasing pack. This time, Krantz may finally discover whether his boat has pace or not.

POSITIONS

OVERALL (after two legs): 1, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 207pts; 2, EF Language (Swe) 197; 3, Silk Cut (GB) 168; 4, Swedish Match (Swe) 161; 5, Merit Cup (Monaco) 156; 6, Toshiba (US) 157; 7, Chessie Racing (US) 132; 8, EF Education (Swe) 60; 9, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 36.



John Hopkins finds Picabo Street frustrated but cheerful

Sun Valley girl ready to shine again

Start, swish, swoosh, finish. That is a downhill ski race. The speck in the distance is upon you in the blinking of an eye and gone again in a shower of snow, an exhalation of breath.

For all this, skiing involves a lot of waiting around — for the snow to start or stop falling, or as in Val d'Isère these past few days, for the rain to cease.

Hundreds of skiers are in the French town for the start of the Alpine racing season — the *42eme Criterium International de la première neige* — a season that has particular relevance because the Winter Olympics are only two months away. Few skiers are waiting more anxiously than Picabo Street, 26, the silver medal-winner in the downhill at the Lillehammer Olympics, who is making her comeback after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee last December.

Picabo peeped out at the rain and summoned that trademark dazzling smile. "I am pleased to be back," she said, despite the super giant slalom race, which had been postponed from Tuesday to yesterday, being put off again until next Thursday.

From the exoticism of her Christian name, which means Shining Water in an American Indian tongue, to the dazzling skill of her no-holds barred style, Street is one of the stars of skiing, the winner of World Cup downhill titles in 1995 and 1996. She is the only woman used by Nike, the sports goods manufacturers, to advertise their products. She may be a millionairess as a result but her's is no easy life.

A year away from ski racing was a fierce test of the patience of someone as active as Street. She swam, played the piano, went to the beach as well as undergoing therapy and physical rehabilitation for up to six hours each day.

"It was not the worst I have ever known," Street said. "It was an opportunity for me to get to know myself better, for personal growth."

And she cried. During a training run in Chile, intended to test out her knee, Street skied off the piste and collapsed in the snow. And she wept tears of frustration when her comeback was postponed in Colorado last month. "I knew I was not ready for it," the girl from Sun Valley said. "I did not want to face the pressure of skiing in the US when everyone would have been on top of me, all the journalists asking questions."

Delaying her comeback was the idea of Herwig Demschar, the Austrian who is the coach to the United States women's team. "She is only 80 per cent," Demschar said yesterday. "Don't expect anything from her yet. She has to get the shivers out of her system. I want to get her into a starting gate for her to have some fun."

A few weeks ago Street bought a puppy, now being looked after at home in the United States by the parents who had played peek-a-boo with her when she was tiny. "The dog is sweet," she said. "It's tiny. I'm going to bring it with me to Europe next year. I'm going to ski with it inside here." She smiled and patted her ski jacket beneath her chin.

"I battled depression within the first month," Street has said of her absence. "It was watching my body change after five or six years of vigorous training. I just shred layers, especially from my left leg. I'd catch myself sitting in my room looking at my little atrophied leg and just crying."

This leg looks normal now, though. On Thursday afternoon, Street played volleyball with her American team-mates for an hour. Wearing a white sweatshirt and blue Lycra shorts, she demonstrated a powerful overarm serve.

Although she bounced around the court, Street, who is known for her exuberance, seemed a litte muted. "She is trying to mingle with the younger ones," Demschar explained. "It is a very compact group and she is the oldest and somewhat out on her own. The kids are one or two years away from producing anything. But Picabo is very good for them to look up to and see what hard work and talent can do."

Much of the rest of the time Street spent fending off inquiring journali[illegible] "We have had great training these past two weeks," Demschar said. "There is no big problem with the knee. She is more focused now than she was."

But there is simply no gagging Street. After posing for photographs yesterday she sheltered from the rain at the St Hubert hotel, where the women's team is staying. Wearing a ski jacket and voluminous trousers, she fiddled with her black woollen hat as she talked, rolling and unrolling it in her hands. Occasionally she touched her right ear, where an earring dangled from the lobe.

"Today would have been a really good start," she said of the position she had been allocated before the Super-G race was postponed. "But there you go. I am back. I'm not expecting to win. Pernilla [Wiberg, of Sweden] is aiming for the Olympics. That's me, [illegible]

Street shows the style that made her World Cup downhill champion in successive years before injury struck

Street: smiling through

24 hours.

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[illegible]'re going through, we'll go through it with you.

SQUASH

England score a treble in doubles

From Colin McQuillan in Hong Kong

ENGLAND reached the semi-finals in all three world doubles championships here yesterday, but not in the commanding form shown through the previous rounds.

After the euphoria of Thursday's HK$52,000 lottery win by the two British singles champions, Mark Cairns and Sue Wright, the workload increased for their partners, Chris Walker and Cassandra Jackman, as they defeated the United States 15-6, 15-13 in a 37-minute mixed doubles quarter-final early yesterday to reach the semi-final against Canada today.

The England quartet then contrived to lose the final qualifying matches of the men's and women's doubles to New Zealand.

The 75-minute 10-15, 15-11, 13-15 loss to the New Zealand men changed nothing. Cairns and Walker remained on top of group B, with New Zealand edged out of second place by the sparkling Malaysian combination of Kenneth Low and Michael Soo. In group A, Australia defeated Pakistan to finish top, which means that England face Zubair Jahan and Amjad Khan in today's crossover semi-finals while Australia play Malaysia.

In the women's doubles, a 21-minute 9-15, 11-15 loss to New Zealand, finished indicatively on a tired, forehand tinned error from Jackman, might have been expected to put England in to a semi-final today against the previously undefeated Australian combination of the world singles champion, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, and Carol Owens.

The Australians, however, lost 12-15, 17-15, 15-13 to Claire Nitch and Natalie Grainger, of South Africa, who will now face England today, while Philippa Beams and Leilani Joyce carry the New Zealand assault to the world champion and her partner.

Results, page 34

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Keith; Clachnacuddin v Lossiemouth; Cove v Wick Academy; Deveronvale v Huntly; Fort William v Forres Mechanics; Nairn County v Rothes, Peterhead v Elgin.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Linfield; Ballymena v Cliftonville; Glentoran v Coleraine; Omagh v Glenavon, Portadown v Crusaders. First division: Bangor v Dungannon Swifts; Carrick v Larne; Limavady Utd v Distillery; Newry v Ballyclare.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Swindon Supermarine; Burnham v Fairford; Hallen v Abingdon; Harrow Hill v Highworth; Shortwood v Endsleigh; Tuffley v Kintbury.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v RTM Newcastle; Consett v Shildon; Crook v South Shields; Jarrow Roofing v Easington CWM; Morpeth v Murton; Penrith v Durham.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Whitstable Town; Cray v Corinthian; Crockenhill v Ramsgate; Erith v Canterbury; Swanley Furness v Deal; Thamesmead v Hythe; Tunbridge Wells v Slade Green; VCD v Lordswood.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Bristol Manor Farm, Bideford v Backwell; Brislington v Mangotsfield Utd; Elmore v Odd Down, Keynsham v Torrington; Melksham v Calne; Paulton R v Westbury.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Barkingside v Ruislip Manor; Brimsdown v Islington; Cockfosters v St Margaretsbury; Harefield v Hanwell; Haringey Boro v Beaconsfield; Hillingdon Boro v Waltham Abbey. Premier division north: Bedford v Welwyn Garden; Biggleswade v London Colney; Hoddesdon v Letchworth; Langford v Harpenden; Royston v Milton Keynes. O'Brien Butchers premier division Cup: First round, first leg: Woodford v Toddington.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Millwall (11.0), Charlton v Gillingham (11.0); Fulham v Tottenham (11.0); Norwich v Ipswich (11.0); Portsmouth v Leyton Orient (11.0); Southend v Crystal Palace (11.0); Watford v Queens Park Rangers (11.0); West Ham v Cambridge Utd (11.0). Second division: Bournemouth v Reading (11.0); Bristol Rovers v Luton (11.0); Oxford Utd v Brighton (11.0); Southampton v Wycombe (11.0), Swindon v Bristol City (11.0); Tottenham v Barnet (11.0); Wimbledon v Brentford (11.0).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Continental Star v Coleshill; Chaslyn Hay v Dudley Sports; Handrahan Timbers v Studley BKL; Highgate v David Lloyd AFC. President's Cup: Newhall v Northfield; Thimblemil Rec v Alveston

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn OB v Old Suttonians; Old Hamptonians v Cardinal Manning OB. Senior first division: Old Isleworthians v Chertsey OS, Old Kingsburians v Old Manorians; Old Reigatians v Old Salvatorians; Phoenix OB v Old Buckwellians

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chigwellians v Carthusians; Etonians v Foresters; Salopians v Brentwoods. Arthur Dunn Cup: Bradfieldians v Eastbournians; Haberdashers v Wykehamists.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Second round: Carshalton v Civil Service; City of London v Crouch End Vampires; Latymer OB v Old Salesians, Norsemen v Southgate County; Old Aloysians v Old Wilsonians; Old Bromleians v Old Vaughanians; Old Finchleians v Nottsborough; Old Ignatians v Old Cholmeleians; Old Latymerians v Alexandra Park, Old Mirchendenians v NatWest Bank, Old Owens v Midland Bank; Old Stationers v Enfield OG; Old Tiffinians v East Barnet OG; Polytechnic v Barclays Bank; Wake Green v Old Tenisonians; West Wickham v Lensbury

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Actonians v Lloyds Bank, South Bank Poly v Old Parmiterians; Cuaco v Winchmore Hill; Old Lyonians v Old Parkonians; Kew Association v Southgate Olympic; Brentham v Merton, Alleyn OB v Old Westminster Ctz; Broomfield v Ibis

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Holker Old Boys; Darwen v Maine Road; Glossop North End v Haslingden; Nantwich Town v Chadderton; Newcastle Town v Atherton LR; Ramsbottom v Rossendale; Salford v Vauxhall GM; St Helens v Blackpool Rovers; Warrington v Prescot Cables

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Southend Manor v Burnham Ramblers; East Ham v Eton Manor; Ilford v Concord Rangers; Sawbridgeworth v Hullbridge Sports; Stansted v Saffron Walden.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Gornal A; Darlaston v Wolverhampton C; Ettingshall v Bustleholme; Kington Town v Wolverhampton; Ludlow T v Westfields; Lye Town v Stourport S; Malvern T v Brierley Hill T; Stafford T v Walsall Wood; Tividale v Cradley Town.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Diss; Fakenham v Halstead; Gorleston v Felixstowe Port and; Harwich and Parkeston v Bury Town; Newmarket v Watton; Stowmarket v Soham; Tiptree v Lowestoft; Warboys v Great Yarmouth

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Long Buckby; Buckingham v St Neots, Desborough v Potton; Eynesbury v Cogenhoe; Kempston v S and L Corby; Northampton Spencer v Holbeach; Wellingborough v Wootton; Yaxley v Mirrlees Blackstone

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Mile Oak; Chichester v Redhill; Eastbourne Town v Pagham; Hailsham v Hassocks; Ringmer v Shoreham; Selsey v Horsham YMCA, Whitehawk v Portfield; Wick v Saltdean

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third round: Marske v Bedlington Terriers; Stockton v Burscough; Mossley v W Auckland; Poulton v Kidsgrove Ath; Tow Law v Dunston Fed Brewery; Billingham Town v Friar Lane OB; Arnold v N Ferriby; Clitheroe v Boston; Oadby Town v Seaham Red Star; Brigg Town v Hucknall Town; Denaby v Birstall; Thackley v Stamford; Bloxwich Town v Spalding; Braintree v Banstead Ath; H Hempstead v Taunton; Lymington v Woodbridge Town; Bodmin v Bowers; Wimborne v Tiverton; Basildon v Herne Bay; Cowes Sports v Chard, Porthleven v Arlesey Town; Bridport v Potters Bar; Folkestone Invicta v Chipstead; Brook House v Histon; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Sudbury; Aveley v Wroxham; Stotfold v Ashford (Middx); Thatcham Town v Burgess Hill; Great Wakering Rvrs v Wealdstone; Brache Sparta v Ely; Chippenham v Tooting and Mitcham, Camberley Town v Sudbury Wndrs.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M v Wednesfield; Chasetown v Oldbury; Halesowen H v Kings Norton; Rushall O v Barwell; Sandwell v Knypersley V, Shifnal T v Pershore T; Stapenhill v Pelsall V; Stratford T v W Mid Police; Willenhall v Bridgnorth.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Curzon Ashton; Maltby MW v Hallam, Ossett Albion v Hatfield Main; Pickering v Eccleshill; Pontefract Cols v Liversedge, Selby v Glasshoughton Welfare; Sheffield v Ossett Town

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Chelsea v Arsenal (10.45); Crystal Palace v Southampton (11.0); Derby v Nottingham Forest (11.0); Leeds v Middlesbrough (1.0); Queens Park Rangers v West Ham (11.0), Sunderland v Barnsley (11.0); Tottenham v Wimbledon (11.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First-round replay: Folly Lane v Normanton (1.30).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam v West Hull (2.30), Beverley v Walney Central; Dudley Hill v Saddleworth (2.30); Egremont v Woolston; Lock Lane v Wigan St Patrick's; Mayfield v Heworth; Oldham St Anne's v Leigh Miners. First division: Barrow Island v Millord; East Leeds v Oulton; Leigh East v Thornhill; Redhill v Blackbrook; Shaw Cross v Eastmoor, Skirlaugh v Moldgreen; Wigan St Jude's v Millom. Second division: Crosfields v Dodworth; Eccles v Featherstone Amateur; Hull Dockers v Dewsbury Moor (2.30); Siddal v London Students; York Acorn v Ovenden.

HOCKEY

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Beckenham v Anchorians; Bournemouth v Eastcote; City of Portsmouth v Purley; Fareham v Gore Court; Ramgarhia v High Wycombe, Richmond v Herne Bay, Trojans v Woking, Tunbridge Wells v Chichester; Wimbledon v Maidenhead, Winchester v Old Whitgiftians. Hampshire/Surrey: Andover v Old Cranleighans; Barnes v Camberley; Epsom v Portsmouth; Haslemere v Oxted, London University v Blandford; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Guildford; Old Georgians v Dulwich; Ounsain v Cheam. Spencer v Old Walcountians. Kent/Sussex: Ashford v Bams, Bexley Invicta v Middleton-Bognor; Blackheath v Marden Russets; Brighton v Old Bordenians; Burnt Ash v Horsham; Eastbourne v Sevenoaks; Lloyds Bank v Old Williamsonians; Newhaven v Folkestone; Tulse Hill v Mid Sussex, Worthing v Old Holcombeians. Middx/Berks,Bucks and Oxon: Ashford v Hayes.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division. Bloxwich v Nottingham; Bloxwich v Hampton-in-Arden. Coventry and North Warwicks v Northampton Saints, Edgbaston v Olton and West Warwicks; Khalsa v North Notts. North Stafford v Harborne

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division. Ben Rhydding v Formby; Durham University v Swalwell; Harrogate v Timperley, Neston v Wigan; Norton v Sheffield Bankers, Southport v Chester

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bury St Edmunds v Sevenoaks; Cambridge City v Ashford; St Albans v Ipswich, Welwyn Garden City v Harleston. West: Cheltenham v Yate; Exeter v Bournemouth, Exmouth v Colwall; Leominster v Redland; Taunton Vale v St Austell

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v London Towers (7.30), Newcastle Eagles v Birmingham Bullets (8.0), Thames Valley Tigers v Sheffield Sharks (8.0). Uniball Trophy: Group stages: Crystal Palace v Watford Royals (7.30), Worthing Bears v Leopards (8.0)

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation middleweight championship (vacant): R Rhodes (Sheffield) v O Grant (Can). Light-welterweight: J Hare (Robertstown) v B Pryce (Newport); Welterweight: J Khaliq (Nottingham) v M Holgate (Walthamstow) (at Ponds Forge, Sheffield)

CYCLING: Chesterfield Spire 10 miles (at Ranby, noon)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham Panthers v Manchester Storm (7.0) Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devils (6.0), Basingstoke Bison v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.30).

SWIMMING: ASA national winter championships (at Ponds Forge Sheffield)

TOMORROW

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers v Teddington (at Aluminium Community Centre, Walsall, 2.0); Cannock v Old Loughtonians (at Morris Ground 2.30); Canterbury v East Grinstead (at Polo Farm, 1.0); Hounslow v Guildford (at Dukes Meadows, 2.0); Reading v Doncaster (at Sonning Lane, 2.0); Southgate v Beeston (at Trent Park, 2.0). First division: Firebrands v Oxford University (at Longwood, Bristol, 12.0); Gloucester City v Bromley (at Plock Court, 1.30), Hampstead and Westminster v Loughborough Students (at Paddington Recreation Ground, 12.30), Harleston Magpies v Bournville (at Snofford Heath, 2.0); Havant v Chelmsford (at Havant College, 2.0), Lewes v Sheffield (at Southdown Club, 1.30); Oxford Hawks v Brooklands (at Banbury Road, 2.0). St Albans v Isca (at Clarence Park, 2.0), Stourport v Indian Gymkhana (at Kidderminster School, 1.0), Surbiton v Hull (at Sugden Road, 2.30), Warrington v Blueharts (at Penketh County High School, 1.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v Derby Storm (6.30). Uniball Trophy: Group stages: Chester Jets v Leicester Riders (7.30); Sheffield Sharks v Newcastle Eagles (6.0).

CYCLING: National Trophy cyclo-cross (third round) (at Braunstone Park, Leicester, 1.45).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle Cobras v Manchester Storm (6.30); Sheffield Steelers v Nottingham Panthers (6.30), Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.0)

SWIMMING: ASA national winter championships (at Ponds Forge Sheffield)

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Clubs hoping to pick up on high note

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE swath of international matches played during the past month may have kept rugby enthusiasts on the edge of their seats but the next month will show whether that interest transmits to the anxious inhabitants of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Anxious because they have had little to put on display, because gate receipts have therefore plummeted and because their primary problem — a sensible structured season — was a notable absentee from the proposals put forward this week by Cliff Brittle.

Brittle's vision for the future of English rugby received, predictably, a cautious and in some areas a caustic welcome. Since amateur rugby has yet to be defined, there is an escape route for the ambitious clubs at the top of the Jewson National League, which is the gangway between the amateur and professional games that the chairman of the Rugby Football Union management board envisages.

For this weekend, clubs in the premiership's first and second divisions will be relieved to repossess their players and lure back their regular customers. Some have kept going thanks to the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup; others have lain comparatively fallow, playing only against passing teams from overseas and development matches.

Saracens, the unbeaten leaders of the first division, have played only one serious game since they beat Northampton on November 9 — if scoring 83 points against Tonga can be regarded as serious. They entertain Bath at Vicarage Road tomorrow and there could be no bigger draw, considering Bath's formidable reputation and their host of internationals. Only Richard Butland of their team is uncapped and appears at fly half, despite asking for a transfer, because Mike Catt was concussed against South Africa on November 29.

"We finished the last run of competitive games on a winning note and we have enjoyed being top for a month," Peter Deakin, the Saracens commercial manager, said yesterday. Deakin hopes for a crowd of 7,500 and has been gratified by the media interest shown in the club's England players, Richard Hill, Kyran Bracken and Tony Diprose.

Saracens will feature on the *Big Breakfast* next Wednesday, which is just the kind of exposure they need to make an impact on the Watford community and ensure that their gates remain healthy, even when clubs with a limited following come calling.

Sale today visit Leicester and may give a debut to Duncan Bell, a 19st prop signed from Ebbw Vale. But of greater interest will be the effect that the past four weeks has had on Leicester's international contingent. "It could prove difficult getting going again," Bob Dwyer, their director of rugby, said.

Dwyer will give Fritz van Heerden, the South Africa international, a debut at lock but rests Neil Back and Richard Cockerill for a game that places England's two wings, Austin Healey and David Rees, in opposition. A third England wing, John Bentley, returns to the Newcastle side against Gloucester tomorrow and a fourth, Tony Underwood, is back after a four-month absence since damaging a leg in August.

Newcastle, who are to play Bath at the Gateshead Athletic Stadium next month to accommodate an anticipated crowd of 10,000, are the other unbeaten side in the division and have a game in hand on Saracens. "The players have worked hard this week," Steve Bates, their coach, said.

"They have had no time for lethargy after the internationals. We have stressed to them that it will be like starting the season again, with a six-week burst to the end of January in which we seek to maintain our place in the league, make a good start to the cup and do well in the European Conference."

Liam Botham will make his debut for Cardiff in the Welsh League this afternoon, in opposition to Swansea's Scott Gibbs at the Arms Park. He will join Rob Howley, Nigel Walker and Jonathan Humphreys, an international trio, who are all fit to resume against the league leaders.

David Hands meets a player whose positional switch secured his England place

MICHAEL POWELL

Healey's move from scrum half to unorthodox wing threequarter, difficult to pin down, appealed to the England management willing to take a chance on his versatility

Healey motoring in outside lane

There was a moment during the summer tour to South Africa by the British Isles that appeared to unite the entire party. Forget about the bonding session pre-tour, the winning of the series — it was the players' court session in Durban when Austin Healey, bound with black tape and an apple stuffed in his mouth, was forced to stand silent in a corner as a punishment for his various misdemeanours, real or imagined.

Healey's reputation as a motormouth has become, even for one aged only 24 and with a modest seven international appearances for England behind him, one of rugby's legends. He is a man who demands the last word, and usually gets it — he is the bee buzzing around the head of colleagues who, no matter how often they try to swat him, always returns.

It is an image to which Healey is happy enough to respond, which can mask his considerable footballing ability and vision for the game that so distinguished his appearance on England's left wing in the epic 26-26 draw with New Zealand a week ago. Asked before his first full appearance for England (against Wales last March) what he believed his greatest strength was, he replied: "My ability." Confidence? Not a problem, or so he would have us believe.

"I've never been one to smash a myth, I just carry it on really," he said, yet there is a level-headedness about Healey's clipped northern tones that belie the myth. "I suppose, in some ways, it's a front I put up to protect myself from any form of criticism or banter. I was always small at school so I suppose you have to be sharp-witted, take the mickey out of people as a form of escape."

School for Healey was St Anselm's, the Christian Brothers college in Birkenhead where rugby was so strong that Healey required permission, and additional insurance, to play football for Cheshire. Football vied with the game that Healey had played in Birkenhead Park's mini-rugby teams since the age of six, and at one stage there was some debate over the possibility of a professional career.

"When I was 15 I had the chance to go for trials at one or two local clubs — Everton was one — but I didn't go," he said. "Perhaps I didn't think I had it in me at that stage to be a footballer and I was going better with the rugby anyway. It's one of those decisions you make. If I had made it to the top in football I would have been far wealthier than I am now but I don't regret it — I've enjoyed my life and it's very rare that a footballer gets to play in front of 75,000 people four weeks in succession."

The point with Healey is that he takes an obvious pride in his performance, only he does not want the world to know. It is the same with his removal from scrum half to wing, for which Bob Dwyer, Leicester's director of rugby, takes responsibility.

English rugby, so frequently formulaic, is unused to such changes. The French, some 30 years ago, did it successfully with the Lourdes fly half, Jean Gachassin, who won his first 15 caps on the wing before appearing in his club position.

It is a case of finding the scope for a footballer who brings to the position qualities that do not appear in the textbook on wing play, which is precisely why Healey is so difficult to mark.

Befitting his character, Healey will turn up like a jack-in-the-box, light on his feet, stepping first one way then the other and with the pace to burn through a gap when it appears. He was always a scrum half until, at 17, Waterloo moved him to the wing. He reverted at Orrell, after the retirement of Dewi Morris, and transferred to Leicester as a No 9 but the arrival of Waisale Serevi pushed him outward and, apparently, upward. "Playing wing has been forced upon me by Dwyer but it's worked out well — being able to play scrum half meant I was almost guaranteed a bench spot.

"I took my chances, trained as hard as I could and as well as I could. I think I took that attitude from Dewi because everyone remembers how he performed as a squad member after being dropped. There's no point being down and dismal in training — that was the attitude I took into England's first three games and it paid off; I was selected for the fourth, against New Zealand.

"I went into last week's game with two aims. The first was to put pressure on my opposite number [Jeff Wilson] and on Christian Cullen. He's a special player and it's probably a better feeling than any to get two hands and a shoulder on him and know that he's going down, that he's not going anywhere.

"The other was to get my hands on the ball as often as possible in the opening 20 to 25 minutes. I did that, then I blew up for about ten minutes, had a rest and went back to being a normal winger, which I shouldn't have done.

"People say it was a great game but when I watched the video I saw things that we could have improved upon. It wasn't the fastest game I've played in, that would probably have been for the Lions against Gauteng, or possibly Free State. But in terms of all-round performance, it was one of the best individual displays by all 15 members of the team that I've been involved in."

That, when you think about it, is a penetrating remark, indicative of the degree of improvement this England side can make as a team unit. Healey wants to be part of that. We must be careful — there is some danger that he will be putting his money, and his talent, where his mouth is.

New spirit of adventure lifts English game

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO

Contrary though it may be to say so, it was probably better for English rugby that we did not beat New Zealand last Saturday. All the players were disappointed not to have done so and I believe that we should have done so, but we could not risk deluding ourselves that the necessary leap forward had been taken.

Although I was not involved, I suspect that there was an element of that when we beat the All Blacks in 1993. So far in 1997, we have only reached stage one of the process and the ambition is to get to stage ten. We have shown what we can do in a short space of time, but we have to continue improving at that rate because the World Cup isn't so far away.

That game four years ago was dreadful and the way rugby is played has changed on a global level. Most other countries seem to have changed faster than England: I think you can draw parallels with what is happening in England now and what happened in New Zealand when, first, they lost at Twickenham, then lost a home series with France.

They took a long, hard look at themselves and so must we. England are going through a lean spell — we have not won in six internationals — and we need to create an environment in which England can turn up at the 1999 World Cup with the best chance of winning. But that comes within the short-term aims; in the long term, the whole English game needs to be in a position to benefit from what I hope will be a successful World Cup campaign.

> 'The players realise the need to score tries to win at this level'

The most positive element to have emerged from the past four weeks has been the ability of players to learn. I don't think that any England squad has faced a schedule such as that before, coming as it did in the middle of a hectic domestic programme, but as the games became harder, so our performances became better.

The commitment and character shown by everyone, players and management, were fantastic. During the first two games, against Australia and New Zealand at Old Trafford, there were areas in attack and defence where we were found wanting; we studied them, the coaching team analysed them and we were able to rectify the situation very quickly, which showed in the game last Saturday.

The players realise the need to score tries to win at that level and we went out with the right attitude and the willingness to be positive. It showed that we have the talent and the resources to challenge at the top level — though some of us will keep in mind the second half against South Africa, which turned out to be the most disappointing feature of the four weeks that we have spent together.

Against New Zealand at Twickenham, some of the players might have been forgiven for thinking, as the All Blacks cut back our early lead, that the second half was going to be like the South Africa game all over again — certainly many of the crowd may have thought that. The way the game is now, though, you have to be able to absorb pressure, to weather the storm, and good sides are defined by the character they show in those circumstances.

Not only did England hold on, we came back in the last ten minutes, levelled the scores and continued to try to win, which shows the desire in the squad to play for each other. The achievement was not the result, but the performance. Invariably in high-level sport, if you control the performance, the result takes care of itself. The intention was always there, from the first game against Australia, but scoring points proved more difficult.

We have also blooded new young players, such as Matt Perry and David Rees. They won't go into the World Cup feeling daunted by the challenge and that will be important if we are to succeed. They will bank the experience, do it all over again next summer, all being well, and will have a fund of knowledge, ability and character to take with them into 1999.

At the same time, players such as Kyran Bracken have re-emerged. Kyran started his international career in that 1993 game with New Zealand and has had some ups and downs, but now we have two top-class scrum halves in him and Matt Dawson. They are an example of the competitive environment that Clive Woodward, the coach, wants to create in the England squad.

This weekend we return to club rugby and Wasps's meeting with Harlequins today is as important at that level as England's display against New Zealand was in international terms. I cannot afford any sense of anticlimax because Wasps need to get back to winning ways. Players need to perform consistently well, regardless of the environment and whether they are playing in front of 75,000 people or 5,000.

We are not worried about our position near the foot of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division. The spirit within the team burns brightly and the talent has not gone anywhere, even though we have been affected by injuries far more than last season.

We do have a rest next weekend, which may be no bad thing, but a good display today is important — because of our position, because it is a derby and the first of a Christmas double-header: a win will put us in good heart for our home Cup match with Quins over the weekend of January 3-4.

RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

TOP POINTS-SCORERS

		T	C	P	DG	Pts
1	D Dominguez (Stade Français)	5	29	41	4	218
2	L Jarvis (Cardiff)	4	29	46	—	216
	C Lamaison (Brive)	1	26	51	2	216
4	G Rees (Wasps)	1	25	38	—	169
5	M Lynagh (Saracens)	6	24	27	—	159
6	S Howarth (Sale)	1	33	26	2	155
7	J Stransky (Leicester)	4	23	29	—	153
8	M Mapletoft (Gloucester)	3	19	28	3	146
9	T Castaignède (Castres)	5	21	23	3	145
10	T Stimpson (Newcastle)	6	23	22	—	142

TOP TRY-SCORERS

		Lge	Eur	Int	Total
1	D Bory (Narbonne)	4	8	—	12
	M Biboulet (Stade Français)	5	7	—	12
3	S Dominci (Stade Français)	5	5	—	10
	E Bolo Bolo (Stade Français)	2	8	—	10
5	K Logan (Wasps)	1	7	—	8
	X Garbajosa (Toulouse)	1	7	—	8
	W Greenwood (Leicester)	2	6	—	8
	S Peysson (Colomiers)	2	6	—	8
	M Moore (Sale)	2	6	—	8
	P Saint-André (Gloucester)	2	4	2	8
	V Tuigamala (Newcastle)	1	7	—	8

TRIES PER MATCH

		P	Tr	Avge
1	Stade Français	11	75	6.25
2	Newcastle	12	56	4.67
3	Colomiers	12	53	4.42
4	Toulouse	12	50	4.17
5	Swansea	11	43	3.91
6	Richmond	11	41	3.73
7	Sale	12	43	3.58
8	Brive	13	46	3.54
9	Leicester	11	38	3.45
	Wasps	11	38	3.45

POINTS PER MATCH

		P	Pts	Avge
1	Stade Français	12	572	47.67
2	Colomiers	12	456	38.00
3	Newcastle	12	451	37.58
4	Toulouse	12	396	33.00
5	Swansea	11	354	32.18
6	Wasps	11	353	32.09
7	Leicester	11	343	31.82
8	Sale	12	381	31.75
9	Brive	13	401	30.84
10	Cardiff	12	377	29.00

FEWEST TRIES CONCEDED

		P	Tr	Avge
1	Bègles-Bordeaux	11	9	0.82
2	Newcastle	12	12	1.00
3	Toulon	11	13	1.18
4	Pau	12	15	1.25
5	Bourgoin	11	15	1.36
6	Montferrand	12	18	1.50
7	Narbonne	11	17	1.55
8	Saracens	12	19	1.58
9	Perpignan	11	18	1.64
10	Castres	12	21	1.75

MOST TRIES CONCEDED

		P	Tr	Avge
1	Neath	11	61	5.54
2	Bridgend	11	59	5.36
3	Bristol	12	53	4.42
4	Newport	11	44	4.00
5	Grenoble	11	42	3.82
6	Montpellier	11	40	3.64
7	Ebbw Vale	11	38	3.45
8	Nice	11	32	2.91
9	Harlequins	12	34	2.83
10	London Irish	11	31	2.82

		P	W	D	L	%
1	Newcastle	12	11	0	1	91.67
	Saracens	12	11	0	1	91.67
	Toulouse	12	11	0	1	91.67
4	Colomiers	12	10	0	2	83.33
	Stade Français	12	10	0	2	83.33
6	Bath	12	9	0	3	75.00
	Castres	12	9	0	3	75.00
8	Cardiff	13	9	1	3	73.08
9	Agen	12	8	0	4	66.67
10	Brive	13	8	1	4	65.38

		P	W	D	L	%
1	Grenoble	11	0	1	11	0.42
2	Montpellier	11	1	0	10	9.10
3	Neath	11	1	1	9	13.64
4	Bristol	12	3	0	9	25.00
5	La Rochelle	11	3	0	9	27.27
	Newport	11	3	0	8	27.27
	Nice	11	3	0	9	27.27
8	Bourgoin	11	4	0	7	36.37
	Ebbw Vale	11	4	0	7	36.37
	Northampton	11	4	0	7	36.37

☐ *Figures for players and clubs from top divisions in England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Wales. Fixtures included: domestic leagues, Heineken Cup, European Conference, Internationals.*

■ *Compiled by Stephen McCormack*

Morrison appointed in merit-panel scheme

ONLY one English referee, Ed Morrison, has an appointment for the five nations' championship in the new year (David Hands writes). Morrison, who handled the 1995 World Cup final, will take charge when Ireland meet Wales in Dublin on March 21.

Two of England's matches go to southern hemisphere referees in the first five nations' to operate under the merit-based panel, initially established at nine last summer by the International Rugby Football Board. Four newcomers are Jim Fleming, the Scot whose record of internationals is outstripped only by Derek Bevan, David McHugh (Ireland), Didier Mené (France) and André Watson (South Africa).

Watson, who refereed England's match with Australia at Twickenham last month, is the first South African on the panel. "The new approach has received a very positive reaction from the world's leading coaches and players," Tim Gresson, chairman of the board's referees committee, said. "I am confident this system of appointments will become permanent and, indeed, will be extended to other major international matches, including the 1999 Rugby World Cup qualifying and final tournaments."

Wales will play five matches in South Africa next summer, including an international against the Springboks in Pretoria. Their provincial opponents include Border, who gave the British Isles so testing a game in the mud of East London in May.

WALES TOUR: June 12: v Emerging Springboks (venue to be confirmed); 16: v Border (East London); 19: v Natal (Durban); 23: v Gauteng Falcons (Brakpan); 27: v South Africa (Pretoria).

FIVE NATIONS' REFEREEING APPOINTMENTS: Feb 7: France v England — D Bevan (Wales); Ireland v Scotland — A Watson (South Africa). Feb 21: England v Wales — C Hawke (New Zealand). Scotland v France — P O'Brien (New Zealand). Mar 7: France v Ireland — J Fleming (Scotland); Wales v Scotland — J Dumé (France). Mar 21: Ireland v Wales — E Morrison (England). Mar 22: Scotland v England — C Thomas (Wales). Apr 4: England v Ireland — P Marshall (Australia). Apr 5: Wales v France — D McHugh (Ireland).

RUGBY UNION FIXTURES

TODAY

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Bristol v Richmond (3.0)
Harlequins v Wasps (3.0)
Leicester v Sale (2.15)
London Irish v Northampton (3.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	6	6	0	0	145	80	12
Newcastle	5	5	0	0	143	82	10
Sale	6	3	0	3	217	146	6
Bath	5	3	0	2	153	119	6
Harlequins	5	3	0	2	131	144	6
Richmond	5	2	0	3	121	108	4
Leicester	3	2	0	1	72	83	4
Gloucester	5	2	0	3	120	112	4
Wasps	4	1	0	3	92	100	2
Northampton	5	1	0	4	88	110	2
London Irish	5	1	0	4	80	139	2
Bristol	6	1	0	5	80	239	2

Second division

Coventry v Blackheath (3.0)
Fylde v Orrell
London Scottish v Rotherham (3.0)
Moseley v Wakefield (3.0)
Waterloo v Bedford (2.15)
West Hartlepool v Exeter (3.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	9	9	0	0	307	140	18
L Scottish	10	7	0	3	255	184	14
Waterloo	10	7	0	3	270	204	14
W Hartlepool	9	6	0	3	203	185	12
Coventry	10	6	0	4	188	235	12
Orrell	9	5	0	4	213	162	10
Moseley	9	5	0	4	170	173	10
Rotherham	9	4	0	5	188	171	8
Blackheath	10	4	0	6	223	253	8
Exeter	10	2	0	8	158	243	4
Wakefield	10	1	0	9	178	252	2
Fylde	9	1	0	8	124	276	2

Jewson National League
First division

Harrogate v London Welsh (2.15)
Liverpool St Helens v Leeds (2.30)
Nottingham v Rosslyn Park (3.0)

Second division north

Nuneaton v Stourbridge (2.30)

Second division south

Camberley v Tabard

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Pool A: Durham v Cumbria (at Hartlepool Rovers, 2.15); Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire (at Rugby, 3.0). Pool B: Lancashire v Leicestershire (at Preston Grasshoppers, 2.15); North Midlands v Cheshire (at Worcester, 2.30). Pool C: Northumberland v East Midlands (at Alnwick); Staffordshire v Yorkshire (at Burton, 2.30). South: Pool A: Eastern Counties v Cornwall (at Grange Road, Cambridge, 3.0). Pool B: Hertfordshire v Gloucestershire (at Hertford, 2.15). Pool C: Buckinghamshire v Hampshire (at Amersham and Chiltern, 2.15); Surrey v Kent (at Sutton and Epsom). Pool D: Oxfordshire v Middlesex (at Iffley Road, Oxford, 2.0)

Welsh League
Premier division

Cardiff v Swansea (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Neath
Newport v Llanelli
Pontypridd v Bridgend

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Swansea	5	4	0	1	197	83	28	5	17
Cardiff	5	4	1	0	148	104	15	1	14
Pontypridd	5	3	1	1	147	87	18	3	13
Llanelli	5	2	0	3	133	109	16	2	8
Bridgend	5	2	1	2	101	182	11	0	7
Ebbw Vale	5	2	0	3	86	164	9	0	6
Neath	5	1	1	3	127	157	16	1	5
Newport	5	0	0	5	88	141	7	0	0

First division

Blackwood v Cross Keys
Dunvant v Aberavon
Llandovery v Bonymaen
Newbridge v Cardiff Institute
Pontypool v Merthyr
Rumney v Caerphilly
South Wales Police v Maesteg
Treorchy v Abertillery

Tennents Premiership
First division

Edinburgh Academicals v Jed-Forest
Hawick v Boroughmuir
Melrose v Heriot's FP
Watsonians v Currie
West of Scotland v Stirling County

Second division

Biggar v Kelso
Dundee HSFP v Gala
Kilmarnock v Peebles
Kirkcaldy v Musselburgh
Preston Lodge v Glasgow Hawks

Third division

Glenrothes v Stewart's Melville FP
Gordonians v Glasgow Southern
Hillhead/Jordanhill v Ayr
Selkirk v Aberdeen GSFP
Stewartry v Grangemouth

AIB League
First division

Ballymena v Blackrock College (2.30)
Dolphin v Young Munster (2.30)
Garryowen v Old Belvedere (2.30)
Old Crescent v Cork Constitution (2.30)
Shannon v Clontarf (2.30)
St Mary's College v Dungannon (2.30)

Second division

Buccaneers v Sunday's Well (2.30)
Galwegians v Derry (2.30)
Greystones v Instonians (2.30)
Monkstown v Wanderers (2.30)
Old Wesley v Malone (2.30)
Skerries v DLSP (2.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Cheltenham v Birmingham/Solihull (3.0); Henley v Staines; Manchester v Broughton Park (2.15); Metropolitan Police v Stroud (3.0).

TOMORROW

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Newcastle v Gloucester (3.0)
Saracens v Bath (3.0)

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: South: Pool B: Berkshire v Dorset and Wiltshire (at Abbey, 2.30). Pool D: Somerset v Devon (at Bridgwater, 2.30).

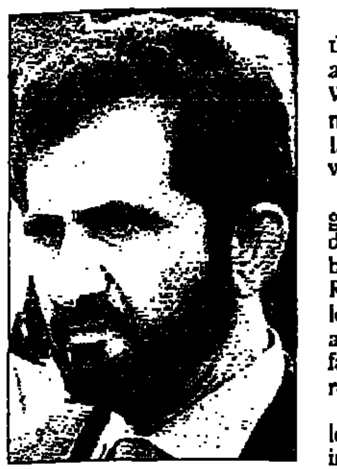
AIB League
First division

Lansdowne v Terenure (2.30)

RACING

Sheikh Mohammed invited to address all-party committee

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent



Sheikh: Commons call

SHEIKH MOHAMMED is being asked to the House of Commons to address MPs and peers about the Maktoums' threat to leave British racing because of the state of the sport's finances.

A formal invitation from the all-party parliamentary racing and bloodstock committee will be sent out early next week to the Dubai leader — and initial soundings suggest he is interested in taking up the challenge.

The group of parliamentarians has 76 members and the intention is to arrange a date when Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and a keen racing enthusiast, would be free to attend and listen to Sheikh Mohammed.

In recent years, the all-party committee has exerted considerable influence behind the scenes with government on issues such as Sunday racing and gaining the VAT concession for owners and breeders.

John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale whose constituency includes Malton, stepped down as chairman of the committee last week to concentrate on his duties as a shadow Home Office minister, with responsibilities including gambling. Lawrence Cunliffe, Labour MP for Leigh, and Richard Page, Conservative MP for Hertfordshire, South West have been appointed joint chairmen.

While the Maktoum bombshell has dominated this week's news, racing carries on and this afternoon punters are offered the best day's sport so far this season with quality jumping at Cheltenham, Haydock, Doncaster and Lingfield.

After humming and hawing over where Simply Dashing should run today, Tim Easterby has opted to come south for the Tripleprint Gold Cup rather staying in the north for the Tommy Whittle Chase. The exciting six-year-old has never raced at Prestbury Park and connections are anxious, no doubt, to gain valuable experience over the course as part of the horse's preparation for a possible tilt at the Gold Cup in March.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Emerald Statement
(2.00 Lingfield Park)

Next Best: Simply Dashing
(2.30 Cheltenham)

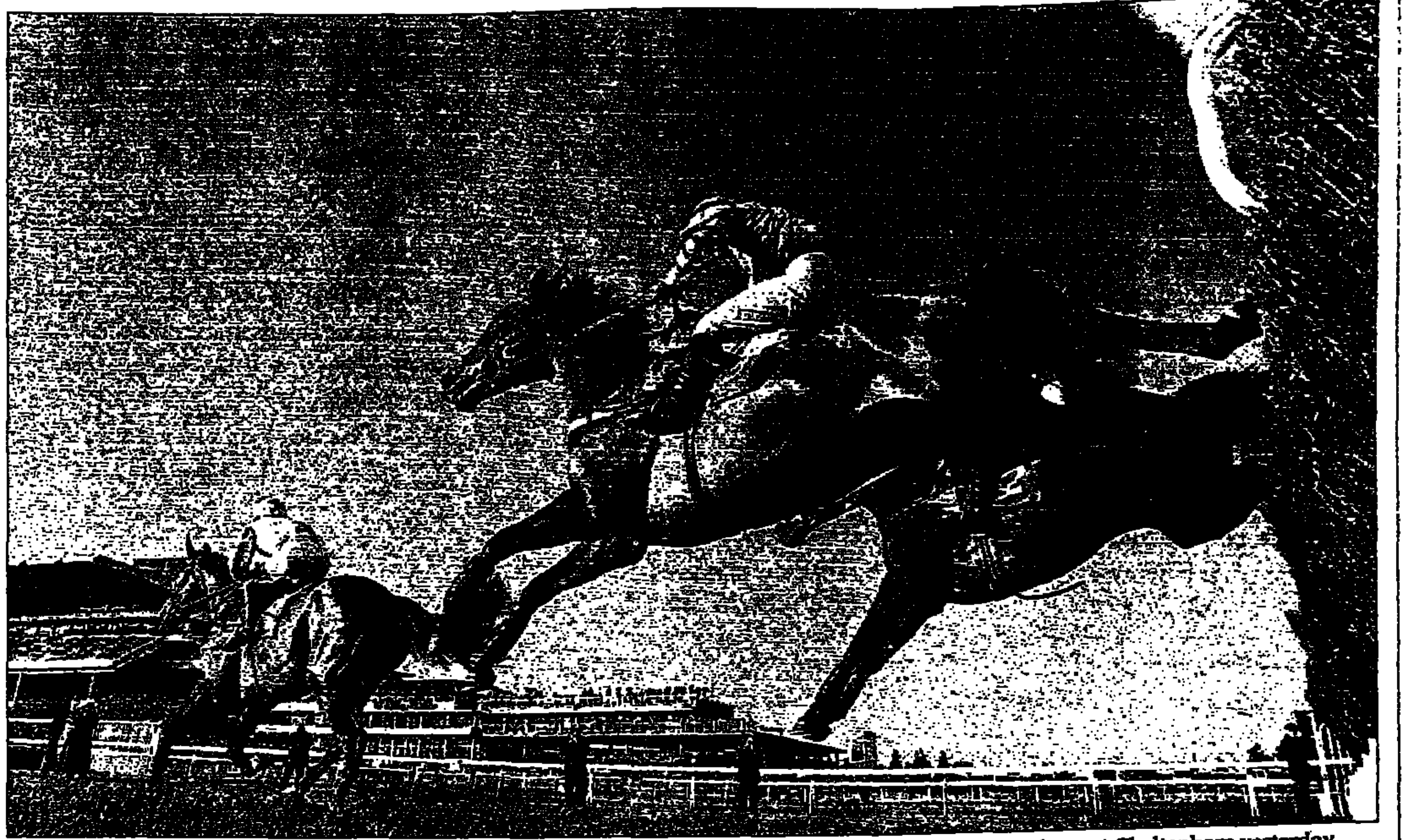
Judged on his victories in the First National Bank Chase at Ascot and earlier at Wetherby, where he beat Senor El Betrutti, the subsequent 15-length Murphy's Gold Cup winner,he is hard to oppose.

His Ascot success came on ground softer than ideal and despite an uncharacteristic blunder at the ninth fence. Raised 8lb for that win, he still looks well treated and should appreciate today's better surface. Tim Easterby's string remains in cracking form.

Fine Thyne finished five lengths adrift of Simply Dashing at Ascot and reopposes on 6lb better terms but all his best form has been on flat right-handed tracks. Senor El Betrutti is well held on Wetherby form and Destin D'Estruval prefers softer ground. Challenger Du Luc is a bit of a monkey, as he showed when throwing away a winning chance at Newbury last time, but is suited by the track and looks the main danger to **Simply Dashing.**

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, **Emerald Statement** could offer some value in the Lambert Fenchurch December Novices' Chase at Lingfield (2.00) against Ottawa, a recent winner in the Worcester mud.

Twice a winner over hurdles last term, he showed his best form when a close third to Agistment and Forest Ivory at Huntingdon. A winning pointer in Ireland, the Gardie Grissell-trained seven-year-old has always appealed as a chaser and he made an encouraging debut at Fontwell behind Joliver.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Edgemoor Prince leads his two rivals on the first circuit before gaining a narrow victory in the novice chase at Cheltenham yesterday

Sound Appeal causes Triumph adjustment

By Chris McGrath

IT MAY or may not be considered appropriate that an accountant should be named Bob Fidler. Either way, he was in the good books of a rather different type of accountant at Cheltenham yesterday — his colours having put punters in the red when Sound Appeal turned over two leading candidates for the Triumph Hurdle. It will have occurred to those who backed The French Furze and Real Estate that the sponsors of the Eagle Pest Control Juvenile Novices' Hurdle could do worse than turn their professional attention to turf accountants.

Sound Appeal had been beaten by Real Estate at Ascot last time, but both were expected to be eclipsed by The French Furze, so impressive at the previous meeting here. Tony McCoy duly set out to make all again, gave the odds-on favourite a breather at the top of the hill and kicked for home. It was not part of the plan, however, that Andrew Thornton should be cruising in his slipstream on Sound Appeal, who quickened into the lead approaching the last and left The French Furze floundering up the hill. Real Estate eventually claimed second, but the nine-length margin demanded rapid adjustment to ante-post calculations.

Sound Appeal, flagship to the small Lambourn yard of George Foster, is now 16-1 joint-favourite for the Triumph with Coral (from 33-1), along with Khairabar, Rainwatch and Vent D'Aout. The Tote makes Rainwatch favourite at 14-1, both firms having eased The French Furze to 20-1.

Foster said: "We should have made more use of her at Ascot and the ground was too sticky for her as well. We've got to come back here in March now, haven't we? She still has to be mounted on the course, so we shall just have to see whether she copes with the bustle of the Festival."

Dawn Leader, beaten favourite for the Festival bumper last season, will again be fancied on his return, judging from a stunning display in the EBF Cheltenham Sponsorship Club National Hurdle Novices' Hurdle. He had so few horses behind him at the top of the hill that the only race he looked like winning was the one starting half an hour later. Yet he suddenly acquired an electric charge from the inside rail, cutting down rival after rival until pouncing at the last to win by four lengths. There being no record of Carl Llewellyn ever having ridden Pegasus, one could readily believe him when he said: "I have never sat on a horse that could quicken like that off a slow pace."

Jim Old, the winning trainer, added: "He does pull, so we needed to try to switch him off. He's a real star. I never had him right last season and he's still quite weak, so I wouldn't be surprised if he only ran twice before the Festival — though he wouldn't come here if it were firm, either."

Such brilliant promise illuminated a golden Cotswold afternoon, but the blackest night descended when Jenny Pitman's promising Mentmore Towers had to be destroyed after his fall at the second-last in the concluding handicap hurdle, won by the fortunate Gysart.

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

12.45 Arctic Kinsman
1.20 Mighty Moss
1.55 Escartefigue
2.30 **TRYING AGAIN** (nap)
3.05 Collier Bay
3.40 Old Rouvel

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 **CHALLENGER DU LUC.**

GOING. GOOD SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.45 GALWAY FESTIVAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,827. 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

101	/U2F6-2	ARCTIC KINSMAN 22 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-10	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
102	111-310	INDIAN JOCKEY 29 (BF,D,F,G,S) (S Mercer) M Pipe 5-11-3	A P McCoy	164
103	02540-0	KIBREET 42 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Emery) P Hobbs 10-10-13	R Dunwoody	165
104	5/5213-	SEEK THE FAITH 214 (CD,F,S) (R Mathews) M Sheppard 8-10-0	R Johnson	157

Long handicap: Seek The Faith 9-6.

BETTING: 5-4 Indian Jockey, 11-8 Arctic Kinsman, 6-1 Kibreet, 10-1 Seek The Faith.

1996: DANCING PADDY 8-11-10 A Dobbin (15-8) K Cunningham-Brown 3 ran

FORM FOCUS Arctic Kinsman 6l 2nd of 6 to Leotard in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, soft). Indian Jockey 29l last of 7 to Call Equiname in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m, good), previously beat Leotard 2½l in 8-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good) with Kibreet (14lb better off) 47l last. Seek The Faith 16l 3rd of 6 to Red Branch in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Newlands-General 1¼l in 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm).

ARCTIC KINSMAN badly needed the run at Ascot and can return to his best

1.20 LONESOME GLORY HURDLE
(£10,260: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

201	0321-11	DARAYDAN 31 (C,D,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-11-4	A P McCoy	167
202	1111-4	JUYUSH 14 (G,S) (W Sturt) J Old 5-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	158
203	1510-22	RED RAJA 22 (F,G,S) (J Aly) P Mitchell 4-11-1	R Dunwoody	155
204	112222-	MIGHTY MOSS 276 (D,G,S) (K Hutsby) D Nicholson 6-10-12	Mr F Hutsby	154
205	/3/112-	RED BLAZER 240 (BF,D,S) (Miss H Knight) Miss H Knight 6-10-12	DOUBTFUL	137

BETTING: 6-4 Mighty Moss, 2-1 Juyush, 9-4 Daraydan, 14-1 Red Raja

1996: KARSHI 6-10-12 J Osborne (11-8 fav) Miss H Knight 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Daraydan beat Occold 8l in 3-runner hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to firm). Juyush 29l 4th of 5 to Sanmartino in hurdle grade 2 at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft), previously beat Mistinguett 1¾l in 7-runner hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). Red Raja 4l 2nd of 3 to Whip Hand in hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good). Mighty Moss 1l 2nd of 17 to Istabraq in novice hurdle grade 1 at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm) with Daraydan (6lb worse off) 1¾l 3rd. Red Blazer neck 2nd of 15 to Zander in novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good)

MIGHTY MOSS was one of the best novices last season and will improve

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

1.55 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICES CHASE
C4

(£6,808: 2m 5f) (4 runners)

301	14-1131	EDGEMOOR PRINCE 1 (C,F,G,S) (Racing Hares) P Hobbs 6-11-10	DOUBTFUL	—
302	1-21112	NORTHERN STARLIGHT 31 (BF,F,G,S) (A Souch) M Pipe 6-11-10	A P McCoy	145
303	/6P3/04	CLEVER REMARK 18 (G) (Mrs J Smith) J Old 8-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	103
304	33512-1	ESCARTEFIGUE 12 (G,S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 5-11-6	R Johnson	140

BETTING: 4-9 Escartefigue, 7-4 Northern Starlight, 25-1 Clever Remark.

1996: IMPERIAL VINTAGE 6-11-10 N Williamson (8-11 fav) Miss V Williams 2 ran

FORM FOCUS Edgemoor Prince won here (3m 1f 110yd, good) yesterday, beating Yahm hd in 3-runner novice chase. Northern Starlight 8l 2nd of 4 to Copper Boy in novice chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm). Clever Remark 46l 4th of 12 to Lord Rooble in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). Escartefigue beat Denham Hill 6l in 4-runner novice chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, soft)

ESCARTEFIGUE was a top hurdler and jumped soundly at Worcester

2.30 TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP
C4

(Handicap chase: £37,574: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

401	11F2-11	SIMPLY DASHING 21 (F,G,S) (S Hammond) T Easterby 6-11-10	L Wyer	176
402	6154-22	CHALLENGER DU LUC 15 (B,CD,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 7-11-9	A P McCoy	185
403	116-F21	SENOR EL BETRUTTI 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 8-11-3	G Bradley	179
404	1/12-65	TRYING AGAIN 14 (CD,G,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 9-11-0	R Dunwoody	181
405	631301-	BELLS LIFE 254 (D,G,S) (R Gibbs) P Hobbs 8-10-11	G Tormey	173
406	12332-0	MAJOR BELL 14 (F,G,S) (A Whillans) A Whillans 9-10-8	C F Swan	176
407	2503-P0	KADI 24 (C,D,G,S) (J Brown) D Nicholson 8-10-6	R Johnson	181
408	121-14F	DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL 28 (G,S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 6-10-4	R Thornton (3)	178
409	114F-12	FINE THYNE 21 (D,F,G,S) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 8-10-1	M A Fitzgerald	178

BETTING: 11-4 Simply Dashing, 7-2 Challenger Du Luc, Trying Again, 7-1 Senor El Betrutti, 8-1 Kadi, 12-1 Major Bell, 14-1 Fine Thyne, 16-1 others.

1996: ADDINGTON BOY 8-11-10 A Dobbin (7-4 fav) G Richards 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Simply Dashing beat Fine Thyne (6lb better off) 5l in 11-runner grade II handicap chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Challenger Du Luc neck 2nd of 4 to Callisoe Bay in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft). Senor El Betrutti beat Challenger Du Luc (3lb better off) 3l in 9-runner handicap chase grade 3 at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good) with Destin D'Estruval (13lb better off) fell. Trying Again 67l 6th of 14 to Suny Bay in grade III handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft), previously 1¾l 2nd of 7 to Belmont King in grade II handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft). Bells Life beat Yeoman Warrior 3l in 20-runner handicap chase at Aintree (2m 6f, good) with Kadi (10lb better off) 8l 3rd and Senor El Betrutti (4lb better off) 31l 6th. Major Bell 71l 9th of 10 to Deano's Beeno in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 6f, soft), previously 4l 2nd of 10 to Sparky Gayle in chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good) with Destin D'Estruval (8lb better off) 28l 5th. Kadi 51l 7th of 10 to Suny Bay in handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good)

TRYING AGAIN ran well for a long way in the Hennessy and this is his best trip

3.05 BONUSPRINT BULA HURDLE
C4

(Grade II: £21,770: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

501	2301-P4	BIMSEY 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Ryan) C Mann 7-11-8	G Bradley	177
502	111/1P-	COLLIER BAY 259F (C,D,S) (W Sturt) J Old 7-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
503	/111PP-	LARGE ACTION 252 (CD,F,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 9-11-8	J A McCarthy	185
504	121-111	PRIDWELL 22 (CD,F,G,S) (Jones, Berstock & Fleet Ptnrs) M Pipe 7-11-8	A P McCoy	180
505	1213-2	SHOOTING LIGHT 35 (CD,G) (J Brown) P Murphy 4-11-4	R Dunwoody	157
506	0/0240-	MOORISH 277 (D,S) (A Fitzpatrick) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0	C Llewellyn	168
507	1111/2-	RELKEEL 309 (CD,G,S) (Trustees of late Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 8-11-0	R Johnson	190
508	2110F52	JUST LITTLE 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (S O'Farrell) A P O'Brien (Ire) 5-10-13	C F Swan	170

BETTING: 9-4 Pridwell, 3-1 Large Action, 9-2 Collier Bay, 6-1 Relkeel, 8-1 Bimsey, Shooting Light, 16-1 others

1996: LARGE ACTION 8-11-8 J Osborne (5-4 fav) O Sherwood 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Large Action pulled up in grade I hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good). Pridwell beat Ocean Hawk 3l in 6-runner grade II hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, soft) with Bimsey (levels) 10l 4th. Shooting Light ½l 2nd of 9 to Marello in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft); previously 2¼l 3rd of 28 to Commanche Court in grade I hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). Moorish 14l 8th of 17 to Make A Stand in grade I hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm) with Bimsey (8lb worse off) 34l 13th. Collier Bay (8lb worse off) pulled up and Large Action (8lb worse off) pulled up. Relkeel ¾l 2nd of 3 to Collier Bay (levels) in hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft). Just Little 2½l 2nd of 6 to Cockney Lad in grade II Cork (2m, good to soft)

COLLIER BAY is the best horse in the line-up and his stable is going well

3.40 BRISTOL NOVICES HURDLE
C4

(Grade II: £9,555: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

601	-112112	PROMALEE 13 (G,S) (S O'Farrell) A P O'Brien (Ire) 5-11-7	C F Swan	130
602	5-R1111	TIDAL FORCE 27 (C,F,G) (I Steers) P Hobbs 6-11-7	R Dunwoody	136
603	253-021	JET BOYS 15 (D,S) (Jet Stationery Company Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-4	A P McCoy	107
604	1	LORD JIM 7 (S) (Mrs S Thomas) J Old 5-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	118
605	F01-11	EASY FEELIN 12 (G,S) (M Burke's 5th Family S'ment) D Nicholson 5-11-0	R Johnson	[illegible]
606	PF-F22	MACMORRIS 22 (R Tooth) D Nicholson 4-11-0	R Thornton	129
607	2	OLD ROUVEL 15 (Mrs R Cowell) D Murray Smith 6-11-0	G Bradley	100
608	P625-42	STORMY SESSION 15 (C Haycock) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0	C Llewellyn	105
609	0252361	THIRTY BELOW 43 (F) (GB Racing) M Chapman 6-11-0	W Worthington	116

BETTING: 3-1 Easy Feelin, 7-2 Promalee, 5-1 Tidal Force, Jet Boys, 8-1 Lord Jim, Old Rouvel, 12-1 others

1996: TARRS BRIDGE 5-11-4 J Magee (10-1) C Mann 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Promalee 4l 2nd of 9 to Feathered Leader in novice hurdle grade 1 at Fairyhouse (3m, good to soft). Tidal Force beat Song Of The Sword ½l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). Jet Boys beat Old Rouvel (4lb better off) 11l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft). Lord Jim beat Crystal Jewel 2l in 12-runner maiden hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). Easy Feelin beat Good Lord Murphy 3l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, soft). Macmorris neck 2nd of 10 to Supreme Charm in conditional novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good). Stormy Session neck 2nd of 10 to Welsh Silk in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, soft). Thirty Below beat Celtic Duke 2½l in novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm)

EASY FEELIN should win provided he stays this longer distance

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Sherwood	14	70	20.0	A P McCoy	26	102	25.5
D Nicholson	33	197	16.8	R Dunwoody	37	215	17.2
C Mann	4	26	15.4	C Swan	12	81	14.8
Mrs J Pitman	12	78	15.4	M A Fitzgerald	16	135	11.9
D Gandolfo	3	20	15.0	G Bradley	12	109	11.0
M Pipe	38	279	13.6	Only qualifiers			

Morceli ruled out of Tommy Whittle Chase

MORCELI will miss the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock Park this afternoon after coughing at exercise yesterday. Earlier in the week, his trainer, Howard Johnson, had announced that the nine-year-old would not run at Haydock, but changed his mind when it seemed likely that there would not be many runners in the £40,000-added event.

Johnson said: "He coughed several times after having a sharp canter over three or four furlongs and I dare not risk him. You could run him and make things worse. It's a shame because I wanted to get a race into him.

"All being well I hope it's nothing serious. He certainly looks well enough anyway. I'll probably have to give him a racecourse gallop when he's over this as I still want to go to Kempton or Wetherby over Christmas with him.

"He'll probably go for the 2½ mile race at Wetherby and he's not far off his racing weight. He won at Ascot off 493 kilos and he weighs 502 kilos at the moment."

☐ The highly regarded Red Blazer, trained by Henrietta Knight, will miss the Lonesome Glory Hurdle over 2½ miles at Cheltenham today. "I don't think the ground is soft enough for him and it will only get worse as the forecast is for overnight frost and no rain," she said.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Newcastle (first race, 12.40), Newton Abbot (12.30), Warwick (12.20).

TUESDAY: Folkestone (12.30), Hereford (1.10), Musselburgh (12.45).

WEDNESDAY: Bangor (12.40), Catterick (1.00), Exeter (1.20).

THURSDAY: Catterick (12.30), Towcester (12.40), Southwell (AW, 12.50).

FRIDAY: Hexham (12.30), Uttoxeter (1.10), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.45).

SATURDAY: Ascot (BBC, 12.35), Haydock Park (12.25), Lingfield Park (12.15), Uttoxeter (12.20).

Flat meetings in bold

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LINGFIELD	103	203
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HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

12.40 Foundry Lane
1.15 Barnageera Boy
1.45 Sesame Seed
2.15 The Grey Monk
2.50 Better Times Ahead
3.25 Riverbank Rose

GOING: SOFT SIS

12.40 OLD HALL COUNTRY CLUB NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,102: 2m) (16 runners)

1	1	FOUNDRY LANE 38 (CD,G) (A Sharratt) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-6	P Niven	129
2	12/63-1	FRENCH HOLLY 27 (D,G,S) (K Flood) F Murphy 6-11-6	A Thornton	138
3	D6-	A DAY ON THE DUB 257 (Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 4-11-0	K Johnson	–
4		AGHAWADDA GOLD (Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 5-11-0	J Callaghan	–
5	14/20-	BALLAD MINSTREL 276 (D,S) (G Shouler) J FitzGerald 5-11-0	F Leahy (3)	–
6	2	BEND WAVY 21 (A McDonald) T Caldwell 5-11-0	B Storey	107
7	4	COMPASS POINTER 9 (R Carstairs) J Eustace 4-11-0	S McNeill	95
8	32-	FOREVER NOBLE 315 (Mrs F Ratter) M Hammond 4-11-0	R Garritty	127
9	040-	KNIGHT'S CREST 364 (G Hutsby) R Dickin 7-11-0	X Aizpuru (5)	–
10	4	LORD HASTIE 161F (Mrs J Bendall) N Tinkler 9-11-0	O Pears	117
11	22	LORD RICHFIELD 16 (Harris Associates) S Brookshaw 6-11-0	T Eley	125
12	50	SEVEN MILE GALE 25 (M Birmingham) G Richards 5-11-0	R Burns (7)	–
13	0-5	TAJAR 16 (Veg Chel Partnership) T Keddy 5-11-0	J Goldstein (7)	103
14	0/2	CAROL AGAIN 21 (J Lumsden) N Bycroft 5-10-9	B Grattan (5)	–
15	0	FUNKY 38 (K Hind) F Jordan 4-10-9	R Farrant	–
16	0-P	LUCYS RED SLIPPER 8 (P Jones) P Jones 5-10-9	G Upton	–

BETTING: 11-10 French Holly, 7-2 Foundry Lane, 7-1 Forever Noble, 10-1 Ballad Minstrel, Lord Richfield, 14-1 Bend Wavy, 20-1 A Day On The Dub, Carol Again, 33-1 others

1996: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

FORM FOCUS Foundry Lane beat Cul de Sac 4l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) with Funky (6lb better off) 46l 9th. French Holly beat Ledgendry Line 5l in 19-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). A Day On The Dub 8¼l 5th of 14 to Laredo in NH flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good to firm). Ballad Minstrel 53l 22nd of 25 to Florida Pearl in NH flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm). Bend Wavy 10l 2nd of 6 to Namoodaj in novice hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to soft). Compass Pointer 28l 4th of 10 to Wahiba Sands in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Forever Noble 2l 2nd of 23 to Durano in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). Knight's Crest 25l 7th of 9 to Tarrs Bridge in novice hurdle grade 2 at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to firm). Lord Hastie 9¾l 4th of 13 to Honeybed Wood in novice claiming hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Lord Richfield 1¾l 2nd of 13 to Farladel V in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) with Tajar (same terms) 27l 5th. Seven Mile Gale 86l 20th of 23 to Caulker in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). Carol Again 6l 2nd of 15 to Jessica One in mares maiden hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good).

FRENCH HOLLY looks a useful prospect and gets the vote over Foundry Lane

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
F Jordan	5	13	38.5	E Callaghan	4	8	50.0
T Tate	5	17	29.4	F Leahy	3	16	18.8
J Fitzgerald	14	52	26.9	W Marston	6	39	15.4
O Sherwood	4	15	26.7	R Garritty	5	37	13.5
P Beaumont	3	12	25.0	R Farrant	3	23	13.0
N Twiston-Davies	18	72	25.0	P Niven	9	71	12.7

1.15 PETROS HANDICAP CHASE
BBC1

(£6,788: 2m) (5 runners)

1	/323-31	NATIVE MISSION 14 (CD,G,S) (G Shouler) J Fitzgerald 10-11-11	R Garritty	158
2	43F31-3	FLYING INSTRUCTOR 29 (CD,F,G,S) (Lady Lyell) F R Webber 7-11-8	A Thornton	159
3	/41243-	WEE RIVER 252 (D,F,G,S) (S Graham) G M Moore 8-11-4	J Callaghan	149
4	6F631-2	POLITICAL TOWER 27 (BF,D,F,G,S) (G Nixon) R Nixon 10-11-4	B Storey	162
5	2333-23	BARNAGEERA BOY 22 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Wilson) W Jenks 8-10-3	T Jenks	154

BETTING: 7-4 Flying Instructor, 2-1 Native Mission, 6-1 Wee River, Political Tower, 7-1 Barnageera Boy

FORM FOCUS Native Mission beat Master Oddy ¾l in 4-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good to soft); previously 1l 3rd of 5 to Cumbrian Challenge in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good). Flying Instructor 16l 3rd of 7 to Call Equiname in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m, good); Wee River 13l 3rd of 10 to Down The Fell in grade II handicap chase at Aintree (2m, good) with Political Tower (3lb better off) fell. Political Tower 5l 2nd of 4 to Monnaie Forte in handicap chase at Ayr (2m, good to soft). Barnageera Boy 8l 3rd of 9 to Pennybridge in handicap chase at Aintree (2m 4f, good)

FLYING INSTRUCTOR, who has scope to improve, appeals against some exposed rivals

1.45 TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP HURDLE
BBC1

(£6,821. 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1	4203-25	MISTINGUETT 14 (C,F,G,S) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-10	J Goldstein (7)	164
2	22000-5	MASTER BEVELED 14 (G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 7-10-12	P Niven	158
3	U/50-11	SESAME SEED 7 (D,G,S) (R Tooth) N Henderson 9-10-9	A Thornton	165
4	21151-2	NIGEL'S LAD 7 (D,G) (N Dunnington) P Haslam 5-10-4	M Foster	159
5	/U2100/	TOP CEES 56F (BF,S) (Charlton Bloodstock Ltd) Mrs J Ramsden 7-10-0	B Storey	–
6	431135-	KING PIN 239 (D,F,G,S) (J Hinchliffe) P Beaumont 5-10-0	B Grattan (5)	156
7	22/1-43	DEYMIAR 17 (B,D,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 5-10-0	R Farrant	158
8	4/11313	THROWER 14 (BF,CD,G) (M Owen) S Brookshaw 6-10-0	X Aizpuru (5)	154

Long handicap: Top Cees 9-13, King Pin 9-12, Deymiar 9-11, Thrower 9-10

BETTING: 11-4 Sesame Seed, 7-2 Top Cees, 4-1 Nigel's Lad, 6-1 Mistinguett, 10-1 Master Beveled, King Pin, Deymiar, 12-1 Thrower

FORM FOCUS Mistinguett 22l 5th of 8 to Go-Informal in grade II hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft). Master Beveled 14l 5th of 8 to Star Rage in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). Sesame Seed beat Holdimclose 6l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Nigel's Lad 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Dr Bones in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). Top Cees 36l 11th of 16 to Outset in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good to firm). King Pin 4¾l 5th of 18 to Mahler in novice handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good). Deymiar 13l 3rd of 9 to Name Of Our Father in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m, soft). Thrower 20l 3rd of 5 to Splendid Thyne in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good to soft)

SESAME SEED can continue his winning run in a tricky handicap

2.15 TOMMY WHITTLE CHASE
BBC1

(£26,710: 3m) (5 runners)

1	RR1/34-	COMMERCIAL ARTIST 406 (D,G,S) (L Morgan) D McCain 11-11-2	T Jenks	150
2	U1/12-3	COULTON 21 (F,G,S) (M St Quinton) O Sherwood 10-11-2	R Garritty	197
3	1010/3-	MORCELI 392 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) J Howard Johnson 9-11-2	DOUBTFUL	–
4	/12F13-	THE GREY MONK 257 (BF,C,D,G,S) (A Duff) G Richards 9-11-2	P Niven	179
5	121/12-	ROUGH QUEST 352 (D,G,S) (A Wates) T Casey 11-10-12	A Thornton	198

BETTING: 4-5 The Grey Monk, 2-1 Coulton, 5-1 Rough Quest, 25-1 Commercial Artist

FORM FOCUS Coulton 9l 3rd of 5 to Cool Dawn in handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft), previously 2½l 2nd of 6 to Absalom's Lady in grade II handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). The Grey Monk 11l 3rd of 20 to Mudahim in handicap chase at Fairyhouse (3m 5f, good); previously beat Terao 1l in 6-runner handicap chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good). Rough Quest 12l 2nd of 5 to One Man in grade 1 chase at Kempton (3m, good to firm)

Stamina doubts about Coulton make THE GREY MONK a safer option

2.50 ST HELENS COLLEGE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,534 2m 7f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	56PP0-2	BETTER TIMES AHEAD 16 (CD,G,S) (E Briggs) G Richards 11-11-10	R Burns (7)	[illegible]
2	1313-61	SPLENDID THYNE 14 (S) (J Galvanoni) T Casey 5-11-8	W Marston	139
3	43/30-1	CAMPAIGN 24 (CD,F,G) (Spectrum) M Hammond 6-11-4	R Garritty	133
4	1112/45	HIT THE CANVAS 24 (F,G) (J Mitchell) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13	P Niven	115
5	/P0P-14	HOODWINKER 24 (C,G) (P Howell) W Jenks 8-10-9	T Jenks	128
6	2111222	FIVE FLAGS 30 (BF,D,F,G,S) (K Middleton) Mrs S Smith 9-10-8	R Wilkinson (5)	133
7	10P03-5	LIEN DE FAMILLE 43 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Layton) J J Quinn 7-10-7	E Callaghan	117
8	650212-	MR CHRISTIE 206 (BF,G,S) (D Mann Ptnrs) Miss L Siddall 5-10-3	A Thornton	131
9	0-4F653	PRUSSIA 18 (F) (Prussia Partnership) W Clay 6-10-0	R Farrant	132

Long handicap: Prussia 9-10

BETTING: 3-1 Splendid Thyne, 7-2 Campaign, 9-2 Better Times Ahead, 13-2 Five Flags, 8-1 Hit The Canvas, Hoodwinker, 12-1 Mr Christie, 14-1 others

FORM FOCUS Better Times Ahead neck 2nd of 10 to Son Of Iris in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good). Splendid Thyne beat Toby Brown 8l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good to soft); previously 41l 6th of 7 to Spring Saint in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good). Campaign beat Charley Lambert 6l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, good) with Hoodwinker (7lb better off) 17l 4th and Hit The Canvas (8lb better off) 35l 5th. Five Flags 2½l 2nd of 13 to Toby Brown in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 5f 110yd, good) with Prussia (same terms) a distance 5th. Lien De Famille 21l 5th of 10 to Mister Blake in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good), previously 19l 3rd of 11 to Macgeorge in novice chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft) with Five Flags (7lb worse off) pulled up. Mr Christie 1½l 2nd of 8 to Palace Of Gold in novice handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Beechfield Flyer 6l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, good). Prussia 2¼l 3rd of 7 to Sesame Seed in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, soft).

CAMPAIGN can add to his recent course and distance success

3.25 STANLEY RACING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,222: 2m) (5 runners)

1	105-320	QUANGO 14 (BF,G) (L Milligan) J FitzGerald 5-11-10	F Leahy	118
2	14353-1	RIVERBANK ROSE 15 (G,S) (Highwaymen Plus 1) W Clay 6-10-11	Guy Lewis	119
3	00/251-	TANSEEQ 379 (D,G,S) (Miss N Taylor) M Meagher 6-10-10	E Callaghan	–
4	-122236	SKRAM 10 (BF,F,G) (W Evans) R Dickin 4-10-8	M Keighley (5)	[illegible]
5	242P-32	ALKA INTERNATIONAL 24 (P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 5-10-1	X Aizpuru	118

BETTING. 15-8 Riverbank Rose, 3-1 Quango, 9-2 Alka International, 5-1 Tanseeq, Skram

FORM FOCUS Quango 30l last of 7 to Bures in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good), previously ½l 2nd of 10 to Silly Money in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). Riverbank Rose beat Caracol 9l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 10l 3rd of 9 to Acarou III in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Tanseeq beat Stay With Me 1¾l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 25l 5th of 9 to Henrietta Howard in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Skram 39l 6th of 10 to Crown And Cushion in handicap hurdle at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously 13l 3rd of 6 to Silly Money in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good). Alka International 1¾l 2nd of 8 to Sadler's Realm in novice handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft), previously 2¼l 3rd of 7 to Yet Again in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good)

RIVERBANK ROSE may deny Alka International, consistent but still a maiden

☐ Speaker Weatherill's attempt to extend his winning sequence to five was thwarted when he failed by 1½ lengths against Potter's Bay, trained by David Nicholson and ridden by Robert Thornton, in the Vulrory's Clown Handicap Chase at Doncaster yesterday. Speaker Weatherill's trainer, Owen Brennan, also trained Vulrory's Crown.

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Flow of winners from Yorkshire yard continues uninterrupted despite change of name on licence

Success still reigns in Easterby kingdom

SIMON BARNES

Talking horse

ROSS PARRY

Peter Easterby, left, and his son, Tim, who took over the licence from his father three years ago but has managed to follow the same formula for training winners

Oedipus killed his at the crossroads. Hamlet couldn't make up his mind about his own, and never could work out what he was supposed to do in life, or for that matter, death. Stephen Dedalus spent 900 pages blindly searching for a new one, knowing that the real one would not do. Scorning fiction, or perhaps merely adding to it, Freud constructed an entire industry on the fundamental tenet that there is something that every male needs to overcome.

Fathers and sons. It is the most ancient source of conflict in the world. Conflict and complexity: an endless tangle of affections and duties and resentments. The thriving son is the symbol of the father's decline; he is also the father's future. It is true, as Dedalus says, that Hamlet is himself the ghost of his own father, for that is true of every son that ever lived.

Youthful rebellion: rejection of the father. It is a staple of life, a necessary stage on the way to maturity. It is something we see often enough in sport, where parents have sought to manufacture their children as prodigies.

Many of these, at a crucial stage in their training, reject the father, and with him the sport. Others seek their own way of dealing with him, with the sport. The point of the Sebastian Coe story is that Coe was coached by his father to a gold medal, and then coached by himself to a second. A measured and considered rejection of the father is seen as a crucial, an essential aspect of the process of maturing.

In racing, bloodlines are important. That is as true for the humans as it is for the horses. Last week I wrote in this space about the former footballer, Mick Quinn, and his courage in going into the business of training racehorses without a racing pedigree.

Nature, nurture: with so many horsey people, these things are to be found together. You grow up with horses, you stay with horses. Jockeys are the sons of jockeys, trainers the sons of trainers. There seems to be no alternative. There seems to be no escape: and none wanted, either.

Which brings us to the Easterbys. Tim Easterby is not so much the ghost of his own father, as something alarmingly close to his reincarnation. Which makes it all doubly rum, as Peter is emphatically in the land of the living.

Yorkshire people. *North* Yorkshire. Aye. They've got some g'dosses. Aye. Can't go without the 'oss. Can you? Peter once described one of his greatest horses, Alverton, as a tough, plain 'oss. Equal virtues perhaps. Aye. There can be *no* higher praise than that, surely.

The Easterbys inhabit a kind of dynastic kingdom, as founded by Easterby *père*, where they train horses, farm the land and repel boarders. If it doesn't have a moat and a portcullis, that is because it does not need one. The Easterbys are moated and portcullised people. You don't go about invading them.

Their kingdom is a North Yorkshire version of the vast familial spread in *Dallas*, but it is *Dallas* without the scriptwriters. This is the perfect set-up, everything is invariably harmonious, and if it wasn't, they wouldn't tell us and what's more, they wouldn't change it, either. It just is.

I happen to know their secret of training, however, because Tim told me. "Get the best out of your 'oss. Do the best for your owner." Tim thought he was going a bit far, a bit fancy and chatty, in parting with that kind of information. It took a bit of doing. They are a close family, and Tim is as close a person as you could meet.

Not hostile, not nasty, nor unpleasant, none of these things. True, he doesn't altogether care for journalists, especially not soft southern ones, but he tried to set that natural feeling to one side. That was commendable. I can't really blame him for his defensiveness. I don't blame him for anything. But close, in its multitude of meanings, is what the Easterbys are.

They are very good at money and very good indeed at horses. These are enviable talents. Peter tells a story about selling four tons of potatoes at a vastly increased price just after Night Nurse had won the Champion Hurdle in 1977. "It was a double-barrelled day."

Peter started with nowt, went to the sales on a pushbike to buy a horse. He is now worth millions, with 2,000 acres of arable land as well as the training yard. Tim, therefore, started with a very great deal. He took over the licence from his father three years ago. And as Eric Morecambe said, you can't see the join.

The present star of the stable is the splendidly named Simply Dashing, who runs at Cheltenham this afternoon. Simply Dashing is not a g'doss. He's a very g'doss, information that Tim passed to me quite ungrudgingly.

Simply Dashing is whispered about, but not by the Easterbys, as a potential winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup. "Basically an improving 'oss. If he improves enough — you never know." Wild words, as wild as Easterby words will ever be.

> 'Fathers and sons — the most ancient source of conflict'

There are horses you get a feeling about, and it is an almost mystical matter. Tim Easterby is not going to talk to you about mystical matters.

"You get a lot of feelings about 'osses. But nobody tells you if they are going to keep improving." He understands well the Michael Stoute dictum: there are no surprises in racing, but many disappointments.

Tim's job is running a tough plain business, and that requires the assumption of tough plain virtues. This is not a hardship to him. Nature and nurture make it so. Was he pushed in this direction? Encouraged? Was it entirely his own decision?

"I don't know, really," he said. This is a characteristic locution, at least when talking to journalists. It means that the drawbridge is up and the portcullis down. But then, being a courteous as well as a close man, he sends out a messenger from the moated castle of his personality. "I always liked horses. Always been with them. Always wanted to work with them."

But there must have been a period of youthful rebellion, a period in which everything that your father said was good was actually bad? No. Simple as that. Not a thought of a question or a hint of it. Horses solve the Oedipus problem, obviously.

So has Tim brought new thoughts, new methods into the business? "I don't know, really. Just carried on the same." What difference has it made, then, the son taking over the licence? "Taken a bit of pressure off father."

And the fact is that they can train racehorses all right. Peter remains the only man in history to have had 1,000 winners on the Flat and 1,000 winners over jumps. Though I wouldn't mind betting that there'll be another, and I have a fair idea of who it will be, as well.

Peter, passing over his kingdom to his heir while still alive, has been able to make the transition that Lear never managed. Perhaps Lear's problem was that he didn't have a son like Tim. Or perhaps he just wasn't closely enough involved in horses. So what are Tim's aims, now the kingdom is in his hands?

"I don't know, really. Make a success of it. Keep the business going." He relented again, sent out another messenger. "I want to train the way I always have done. You have to have very good 'osses." Pause. "That's all." I don't believe him.

The Grey Monk to strengthen Gold Cup hopes

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

HAYDOCK PARK

BBC1

1.15: Flying Instructor, a useful novice last term, shaped well enough on his reappearance, and his stable is showing signs of ending its quiet run. But he is not proven in the mud — which factor also discourages interest in Wee River (entitled to need this anyway, having overcome severe health problems). Native Mission required a fine ride to win a similar race at Newbury last time and, while the handicapper has let him get away with just an extra 2lb, he does not always find much. That leaves the dependable **Political Tower**, who looks well treated after being dropped 3lb for an encouraging comeback at Ayr. He acts well on the ground.

1.45: Nigel's Lad has never been tried in testing going, which reduces the chances of his wresting the lead from Thrower. A spectacular winner over course and distance last month, Thrower then went off too fast when taken on for the lead at Warwick. Deymiar did not seem to get home over three miles last time and may prove a danger if produced late, but the potential class act in the race is **King Pin**, another promising young horse trained by the in-form Peter Beaumont.

He will come into his own over fences, but showed enough on soft ground last season to be of interest here. Sesame Seed contributed to another yard's rich streak of form at Chepstow last week, but that was a weakish race and he has gone up 8lb. Top Cees needs more of a test over timber, while the reverse is true of Master Beveled.

2.15: Rough Quest, the 1996 Martell Grand National winner, loves this ground and can go well fresh, but must prove that he has recovered from the injury that cost him the second half of last season. Coulton will doubtless come on for his reappearance, but lacks the conviction that surrounds **The Grey Monk**, who could yet make up into a Gold Cup horse and has his favoured soft going. He jumps round Haydock especially well.

CHRIS McGRATH

CHELTENHAM

CHANNEL 4

1.55: Northern Starlight has shown the best chasing form, having won the Rising Stars Novices' Chase at Chepstow before finishing second to Copper Boy (winner since) just four days later. However, **Escartefigue** was about two stones better over hurdles than the Martin Pipe runner and the way he won on his chasing debut at Worcester 12 days ago suggests he can go to the top over fences.

2.30: see facing page.

3.05: Pridwell has been beaten fair and square in top races by Bimsey, Large Action and Collier Bay over the past two seasons, but is likely to be favourite to gain his revenge as he has shown a reformed attitude this term. However, with the absence of a confirmed front-runner, the race could develop into a tactical battle and **Shooting Light** makes each-way appeal. He possesses excellent course and distance form, having won the Finesse Hurdle before finishing third in the Triumph. Pat Murphy's runner put up an improved performance behind Marello at Chepstow after looking the likely winner two flights from home. A return to this stiff two miles looks perfect.

3.40: **Promalee** looks an above-average recruit to hurdling, having won four times before finishing second in a grade one event over an inadequate two miles at Fairyhouse. He has won three times over 2½ miles in testing conditions so this extended three miles should be ideal. Easy Feelin impressed when winning both starts at Worcester and is improving fast. He represents the main danger.

RICHARD EVANS

[illegible]

THUNDERER

12.05 Sounds Like Fun. 12.35 Hazard A Guess. 1.10 Take Cover. 1.40 Jultara. 2.10 New Inn. 2.45 Classy Lad. 3.20 Orange Imp.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.05 BURROUGH HILL LAD NOVICES CHASE (£3,678: 2m 3f 110yd) (6 runners)

1	-212	DANDIE IMP 22 (F,G,S) A Carroll 9-11-12	B Powell
2	3-31	NASHVILLE STAR 8 (V,F,G) R Mathew 6-11-7	W Marston
3	5-32	FRYUP SATELLITE 21 (D,G) Mrs J Brown 6-11-2	E Callaghan
4	3-56	OUR KRIS 30 (G) M Sowersby 5-11-2	A S Smith
5	11-2	SOUNDS LIKE FUN 16 (F,G) Miss H Knight 6-11-2	J F Titley
6	P0/F	STAUNCH FRIEND 14 (G,S) M Tompkins 9-11-2	D Gallagher

5-4 Sounds Like Fun, 11-4 Staunch Friend, 6-1 Nashville Star, 7-1 Dandie Imp, 8-1 Fryup Satellite, 10-1 Our Kris.

12.35 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICES HURDLE (£3,015: 2m 110yd) (18)

1	-133	DOUBLE STAR 16 (F) J L Harris 6-10-12	J Supple
2		FLORENTINO 52F Mrs V Ward 4-10-12	L Cummins (5)
3	0P	GENERAL HAVEN 21 M Sowersby 4-10-12	E Callaghan
4	34/3	GONE FOR A BURTON 14 P Makin 7-10-12	R Guest
5	302/	HAZARD A GUESS 110F B Rothwell 7-10-12	A S Smith
6	P-04	JOLLY HEART 14 O Brennan 7-10-12	M Brennan
7	33-2	MOON DEVIL 32 M Campion 7-10-12	B Powell
8		NEWBRIDGE BOY 30F M Meagher 4-10-12	R Bellamy
9	0-P	NOTHING TO IT 27 C Murdock 6-10-12	Mr C Bonner (3)
10		OPAQUE 35F W Storey 5-10-12	M Moloney
11	5-32	ROYAL SCIMITAR 14 M Tompkins 5-10-12	D Gallagher
12	00	SAGEBRUSH ROLLER 16 J J O'Neill 9-10-12	M Richards
13	-244	SOCIETY MAGIC 42 C Mann 4-10-12	J Magee (3)
14	4	TROJAN RISK 25 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12	G Lee (3)
15		VERIDIAN 49F N Henderson 4-10-12	J R Kavanagh
16	30	WHAT A FUSS 14 Miss H Knight 4-10-12	J F Titley
17		ALPA'S HONOR 419F Mrs L Taylor 5-10-7	R Supple
18	00-4	WHAT THE DEVIL 189 J Smith 4-10-7	O Burrows (5)

7-2 Veridian, 9-2 Trojan Risk, 5-1 Royal Scimitar, 6-1 Opaque, 7-1 Gone For A Burton, 10-1 Society Magic, 12-1 Moon Devil, 14-1 others.

1.10 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,834: 2m 4f) (9)

1	-1F6	DISALLOWED 27 (CD,F,G) D Nicholson 4-11-10	Mr O McPhail (7)
2	3-40	ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 7 (D,G,S) Miss M Rowland 9-11-8	P Midgley (3)
3	3-44	DANA POINT 7 (G) Mrs S Smith 5-11-4	R Guest
4	1544	CRANDON BOULEVARD 15 (F,G) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-0	G Hogan (3)
5	22U6	TEEJAY'N'AITCH 34 (F,G,S) J Goldie 5-10-12	S Taylor (5)
6	1-03	FAIRLY SHARP 43 (F,G) J Mackie 4-10-11	D J Moffatt
7	-454	JACKSON PARK 30 (C,G) T Easterby 4-10-9	E Callaghan
8	5-12	BEACON FLIGHT 34 (BF,S) B De Haan 6-10-8	B Powell
9	23-0	TAKE COVER 28 M Tompkins 6-10-0	D Gallagher

3-1 Disallowed, 4-1 Fairly Sharp, 9-2 Dana Point, 6-1 Crandon Boulevard, 7-1 Beacon Flight, 8-1 Teejay'n'aitch, 10-1 Jackson Park, 14-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: There are no horses blinkered for the first time today.

1.40 NEVILLE CRUMP MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£7,117: 3m 2f) (7)

1	4F-2	GREY SMOKE 34 (F,G,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-10	J F Titley
2	1F00	FATHER SKY 28 (B,CD,F,G) O Sherwood 6-11-9	M Richards
3	1-43	BAVARD DIEU 64 (F,G,S) N Gaselee 9-11-1	J R Kavanagh
4	1-FU	JULTARA 21 (F,G,S) I Williams 8-10-13	B Powell
5	-112	LORD OF THE WEST 25 (BF,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 8-10-12	R Guest
6	3-1P	DOMAINE DE PRON 35 (F,G) Mrs L Taylor 6-10-5	R Bellamy
7	1P12	SYMBOL OF SUCCESS 7 (V,BF,F,G) D Williams 6-10-0	Mr S Durack (5)

3-1 Symbol Of Success, 7-2 Grey Smoke, 4-1 Lord Of The West, 6-1 Father Sky, 7-1 Jultara, 8-1 Bavard Dieu, 10-1 Domaine de Pron.

2.10 SEA PIGEON HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,702: 2m 110yd) (4)

1	131-	KARSHI 275 (D,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 7-12-0	J F Titley
2	-151	STAR RAGE 14 (D,F,G,S) M Johnston 7-10-10	D Gallagher
3	-225	NEW INN 7 (CD,F) S Gollings 6-10-0	Mr S Durack (5)
4	1626	RANGITIKEI 16 (D,G,S) C Mann 6-10-0	J Magee (3)

15-8 Star Rage, 9-4 Karshi, 3-1 New Inn, 9-2 Rangitikei.

2.45 FORGIVENFORGET MAIDEN CHASE (£3,496: 2m 110yd) (7)

1		BERKELEY BLADE R Mathew 7-11-7	R Bellamy
2	45P/	BILLY BRIGHTON 1118 B Rothwell 7-11-7	A S Smith
3	52-	CLASSY LAD 266 (BF) N Henderson 7-11-7	J R Kavanagh
4	53-0	DESERT BRAVE 15 Mrs S Smith 7-11-7	R Guest
5	00-6	ELEMENT OF RISK 14 W Cunningham 7-11-7	N Smith
6	6-24	GLOBAL LEGEND 12 (BF) J Howard Johnson 7-11-7	J F Titley
7	00-	STARDANTE 206 R Lee 5-11-7	B Powell

8-11 Classy Lad, 4-1 Desert Brave, Global Legend, 16-1 Stardante, 25-1 others.

3.20 DONCASTER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035: 2m 110yd) (18)

1	1	PRESIDENTREE 32 (D,G) A Carroll 4-11-11	Mr O McPhail (7)
2	1-	QUEENSWAY 212 (D,S) J Fitzgerald 5-11-11	J Callaghan
3	130-	MEMSAHIB OFESTEEM 276 (CD,G) S Gollings 6-11-6	Mr S Durack (5)
4	30	AUTUMN BLUNDER 30 A Carroll 5-11-4	B Powell
5	4	CASUAL CALL 34 T Easterby 6-11-4	R McGrath (3)
6		FLECKEFJORD J Hanson 5-11-4	J R Kavanagh
7	0-02	LUCKY TOUCH 30 W Muir 4-11-4	M Richards
8	02	MISSED CALL 50 M Tompkins 5-11-4	D Gallagher
9		NORTH MOSS J Norton 4-11-4	G Lee (3)
10		SHAGREEN J Dunlop 4-11-4	Mr H Dunlop (7)
11		SWEEP GENTLY Mrs S Smith 5-11-4	R Guest
12		TOM-MOSS J O'Shea 5-11-4	Michael Brennan (3)
13	01/	TRIP YOUR TRIGGER 651P (S) C Grant 6-11-4	R Supple
14		HONG KONG CLASSIC R Fahey 4-10-13	A S Smith
15		JAMBMO J Wainwright 5-10-13	L Vickers (7)
16		LOOKING GOOD R Woodhouse 4-10-13	W Dwan
17		MAZEOMI J Hetherton 5-10-13	T Siddall (7)
18	3-03	ORANGE IMP 19 J Fitzgerald 4-10-13	M Brennan

5-2 Queensway, 5-1 Missed Call, 6-1 Shagreen, 8-1 Casual Call, Lucky Touch, 10-1 Memsahib Ofesteem, Orange Imp, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Easterby, 6 winners from 18 runners, 33.3%; N Henderson, 5 from 17, 29.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 16 from 75, 21.3%; J O'Shea, 3 from 15, 20.0%; O Sherwood, 9 from 47, 19.1%.

JOCKEYS: P Carberry, 8 winners from 27 rides, 29.6%; J Kavanagh, 4 from 21, 19.0%; G Lee, 3 from 16, 18.8%; W Marston, 4 from 22, 18.2%; E Callaghan, 3 from 21, 14.3%; M Brennan, 3 from 27, 11.1%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.30 Riparius. 1.00 Sophie May. 1.30 Buddy Marvel. 2.00 Fiddling The Facts. 2.35 Miss Diskin. 3.10 Fire Ball. 3.40 Bowcliffe Court.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES SIS

12.30 TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,339: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1	1P5P	DANEGOLD 7 (D,F,G) M Channon 5-11-10	D Byrne
2	41-2	RIPARIUS 15 (D,F,G) P R Webber 6-11-9	P Carberry
3	6-F3	HARBET HOUSE 25 (CD,S) R O'Sullivan 4-11-4	D Bridgwater
4	P0/6	TUSCANY HIGHWAY 18 (S) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-2	D Leahy
5	10-1	COOL GUNNER 23 (D,F,S) J King 7-11-0	N Williamson

8-4 Riparius, 5-2 Cool Gunner, 4-1 Harbet House, 7-1 Danegold, 8-1 Tuscany Highway.

1.00 PEAK HANDICAP CHASE (£4,333: 2m 5f) (4)

1	131-	CARIBOO GOLD 216 (B,D,F,S) K Bailey 8-11-10	N Williamson
2	11-2	TENEIN 15 (BF,D,G,S) T Forster 6-11-8	S Wynne
3	2236	MONKS SOHAM 21 (D,G) G Hubbard 9-11-4	P Carberry
4	FP-1	SOPHIE MAY 18 (B,CD,F,S) R Curtis 6-10-0	D Morris

7-4 Cariboo Gold, 9-4 Tenein, 7-2 Sophie May, 4-1 Monks Soham.

1.30 TJH GROUP SUMMIT JUNIOR HURDLE (Grade II: 3-Y-O: £9,176: 2m 110yd) (5)

1	11	BUDDY MARVEL 28 (D,S) O Sherwood 11-2	P Carberry
2	041	KINGSDOWN TRIX 10 (S) R Smith 10-12	N Williamson
3	2312	PRAIRIE MINSTREL 24 (D,F) R Dickin 10-12	S Wynne
4	40	ZAFARELLI 56 J Jenkins 10-12	P Hide
5	1112	AMITGE 42 (BF,D,F,G) M Pipe 10-7	C Maude

1-1 Buddy Marvel, 11-10 Amitge, 20-1 Kingsdown Trix, Prairie Minstrel, 33-1 Zafarelli.

2.00 LAMBERT FENCHURCH DECEMBER NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £12,140: 3m) (5)

1	12/1	OTTOWA 18 (G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-7	P Hide
2	0-1P	THE PROMS 29 (V,D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4	C Maude
3	33-2	EMERALD STATEMENT 10 (D,S) D Grissell 7-11-0	B Fenton
4	530P	JOKER JACK 4 (F,S) R Dean 12-11-0	T Descombe
5	231-	FIDDLING THE FACTS 240 (D) N Henderson 6-10-9	N Williamson

7-4 Fiddling The Facts, 2-1 Emerald Statement, 9-4 Ottowa, 10-1 The Proms, 66-1 Joker Jack.

2.35 TJH GROUP LINGFIELD PARK LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (£4,687: 3m) (5)

1	04-1	KAMIKAZE 31 (B,G,S) K Bailey 7-11-7	N Williamson
2	3RU-	SISTER STEPHANIE 238 (D,S) G McCourt 8-11-6	D Bridgwater
3	11-2	FLIPPANCE 14 (BF,D,G) N Gaselee 7-10-7	P Carberry
4	1U-3	SAIL BY THE STARS 16 (G,S) T Forster 8-10-7	S Wynne
5	21-4	MISS DISKIN 14 (G,S) R Buckler 8-10-7	P Holley

5-2 Flippance, 11-4 Kamikaze, 3-1 Sail By The Stars, 7-2 Sister Stephanie, 10-1 Miss Diskin.

3.10 TESTERS FREELANDER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,668: 2m 3f 110yd) (14)

1		DASHARAN 51F I Williams 4-10-12	D Bridgwater
2	/U1-	DUAL OR BUST 222P (F) J Jenkins 5-10-12	P Carberry
3	64	ELA-MENT 10 (BF) B Pearce 5-10-12	Leesa Long
4	-145	FIRE BALL 13 (S) F Doumen (Fr) 4-10-12	Mr T Doumen (3)
5	1-3U	JUST NIP 4 (F) Mrs L Richards 4-10-12	P Holley
6	/040	KARACHI 9 J Joseph 7-10-12	L Harvey
7	P	LIATHACH 23 D Thom 6-10-12	P Hide
8	621-	LIMIT THE DAMAGE 231 (S) V Williams 5-10-12	N Williamson
9	450-	SHARIAKANNDI 240 J King 5-10-12	D J Kavanagh (5)
10	-2P0	THE KERRY LEDGEND 9 N Chance 4-10-12	P Ryan (7)
11	/06-	TINGRITH LAD 277 J Bennett 5-10-12	C Maude
12	P/	TORSONS COMET 700P M Pitman 9-10-12	D Byrne
13	P0	CRUISING FREE 53 L Montague Hall 6-10-7	S Wynne
14	2	DUTCH DYANE 12 G Enright 4-10-7	B Fenton

4-5 Fire Ball, 7-1 Limit The Damage, 8-1 Just Nip, Dutch Dyane, 9-1 others.

3.40 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,821: 2m 3f 110yd) (5)

1	11-5	TICKERTY'S GIFT 15 (CD,F) G L Moore 7-11-12	M Batchelor (7)
2	22-2	IVORY COASTER 17 B De Haan 6-10-10	C Maude
3	30-6	BOWCLIFFE COURT 9 (S) J Akehurst 5-10-10	N Williamson
4	25-2	HANDY LASS 23 (D,F,G,S) J Smith 8-10-10	Mr J Tizzard (5)
5	324-	JOVIE KING 201 (BF,F,G) R Buckler 5-10-5	Sophie Mitchell (5)

15-8 Ivory Coaster, 100-30 Handy Lass, 11-2 Tickerty's Gift, 6-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G L Moore, 9 from 32, 28.1%; P Nicholls, 7 from 27, 25.9%; N T-Davies, 7 from 30, 23.3%; R Buckler, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: D Bridgwater, 11 from 44, 25.0%; P Hide, 6 from 28, 21.4%; D Leahy, 3 from 15, 20.0%; N Williamson, 8 from 41, 19.5%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Laa Jadeed. 7.30 Gralmano. 8.00 Takhlid. 8.30 Cherokee Flight. 9.00 Ellamine. 9.30 Skelton Sovereign.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 MEASURE FOR MEASURE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,659: 1m 100yd) (13 runners)

1	60	AMAZONIAN 28 C Thornton 9-0	Dean McKeown 2
2	4605	BLACK JET 68 N Littmoden 9-0	K Pierrepont (7) 6
3	0	FAYEZ 88 K McAuliffe 9-0	W J O'Connor 4
4	0534	HEATHYARDS SHEIK 59 R Hollinshead 9-0	F Lynch 9
5	0	LAA JADEED 52 J Glover 9-0	S D Williams 8
6	00	MUSALSE 7 P Haslam 9-0	P Goode (7) 12
7		SINGAAR M Kettle 9-0	T Sprake 11
8	4	STAGE WHISPER 51 Lord Huntingdon 9-0	Dane O'Neill 10
9	06	SWALLOW WARRIOR 19 T Etherington 9-0	M Tebbutt 5
10	3	BUNNIES OWN 19 J L Harris 8-9	R Winston (5) 13
11	0	HERNIECE 26 J L Harris 8-9	J Quinn 7
12	03	MAKE BELIEVE 178 M Polglase 8-9	M Fenton 3
13	0	DISMAT 52 H Akbary 8-9	J Stack 1

5-4 Stage Whisper, 4-1 Heathyards Sheik, Laa Jadeed, 8-1 Singaar, 12-1 others.

7.30 CHINA STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,697: 7f) (5)

1	2021	GRALMANO 14 (C) N Littmoden 9-2	S Whitworth 1
2	2311	CLASSY CLEO 15 (F,G,S) P Evans 8-11	A McCarthy (7) 5
3	0520	ONE SINGER 56 (C,G) N Littmoden 8-11	D Wright 2
4	0154	ARBENIG 26 (C) B Palling 8-6	T Sprake 4
5	3301	IMPULSIVE DECISION 53 (G) M Meade 8-6	Dean McKeown 3

4-5 Classy Cleo, 3-1 One Singer, 6-1 Gralmano, 10-1 Arbenig, 14-1 Impulsive Decision.

8.00 DIXON HANDICAP (£2,473: 6f) (13)

1	0030	YOUNG BIGWIG 39 (C,D,F) D Chapman 3-10-0	O Pears 11
2	0201	MALLIA 19 (B,D,F,G) T Barron 4-9-11	T Sprake 7
3	0000	DOUBLE-O 28 (CD) W Jarvis 3-9-11	J Quinn 2
4	0000	TAKHLID 15 (CD,F,S) D Chapman 6-9-9	T Williams 6
5	0016	RAMSEY HOPE 15 (V,C,D,F) C Fairhurst 4-9-9	G Duffield 8
6	0026	EASTERN PROPHETS 11 (BF,D,F,S) G Lewis 4-9-6	A Clark 12
7	-43P	MULLAGH HILL LAD 154 (C) N Littmoden 4-9-5	S Whitworth 3
8	0060	ULTRA BEET 22 (V,BF,CD,F) P Haslam 5-9-5	P Goode (7) 5
9	1401	ITALIAN SYMPHONY 3 (V,CD) P Evans 3-9-5	A McCarthy (7) 1
10	0353	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 22 (D) R Hollinshead 6-9-2	F Lynch 13
11	0000	PRIDE OF BRIXTON 19 (G) C Thornton 4-9-0	Dean McKeown 9
12	6000	GI LA HIGH 11 (G) M Meade 4-8-9	V Slattery 4
13	5046	NIGHT HARMONY 22 (D,S) Miss S Wilton 4-8-9	M Tebbutt 10

7-2 Mallia, 5-1 Eastern Prophets, 6-1 Italian Symphony, 7-1 Ramsey Hope, 10-1 Takhlid, Ultra Beet, Bold Aristocrat, 12-1 others.

8.30 BENTLEY JENNISON CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS HANDICAP (£2,788: 1m 1f 79yd) (10)

1	010-	THREADNEEDLE 427 Lord Huntingdon 4-10-8	Dane O'Neill 4
2	6111	DEMOCRAT 5 M Prescott 3-9-11 (6ex)	G Duffield 2
3	3155	TOUJOURS RIVIERA 28 (F,G) J Pearce 7-9-10	M Wigham 8
4	4032	NIGHT MIRAGE [illegible] M Johnston [illegible]	[illegible]
5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	CHEROKEE FLIGHT [illegible]	[illegible]
9	[illegible]	LADY GODIVA [illegible] M Polglase [illegible]	A McCarthy (7) [illegible]
10	[illegible]	BLUE HOPPER [illegible]	[illegible]

4-5 Democrat, [illegible]

9.00 AS YOU LIKE IT SELLING STAKES (£1,738: 1m 6f 166yd) (9)

1	5122	ANJOU 18 (F,G) J Pearce 5-9-7	M Wigham 8
2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

4-5 Anjou, [illegible]

9.30 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP (£1,877: 1m 4f) (12)

1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	[illegible]	SKELTON SOVEREIGN [illegible]	[illegible]
3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: [illegible]

JOCKEYS: [illegible]

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good

12.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Sound Appeal (A Thornton, 12-1); 2, Real Estate (9-1); 3, The French Furze (4-5 fav). 13 ran. 11l, 9l. A Foster. Tote: £12.60; £3.50, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £19.60. Trio: £4.10. CSF: £44.90.

12.45 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Edgemoor Prince (R Dunwoody, 13-8); 2, Yahmi (10-11 fav); 3, Robsand (5-1). 3 ran. Hd, dist. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £3.22.

1.20. (2m 1f hdle) 1, Dawn Leader (C Llewellyn, 11-4; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Goodtime George (8-1); 3, Percy Crow (33-1). Mountain Storm 5-2 fav. 16 ran. 4l, nk. J Old. Tote: £3.90; £1.70, £2.30, £4.80. DF: £19.50. Trio: £723.20. CSF: £23.41.

1.55 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Yorkshire Gale (N Williamson, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Stormtracker (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Avro Anson (7-2). 5 ran. 24l, 15l. J Gifford. Tote: £3.10; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £4.20. CSF: £10.63.

2.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Tibetan (R Dunwoody, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Barna Boy (7-1); 3, Mister Rm (7-1). Doctoor 9-4 jt-fav. 7 ran. ¾l, 4l. Lady Herries. Tote: £3.40; £1.90, £2.80. DF: £12.80. CSF: £17.00.

3.05 (2m 5f ch) 1, Yeoman Warrior (A Garrity, 7-1); 2, Flapjack Lad (14-1); 3, Pongo Waring (9-4 jt-fav). With Impunity 9-4 jt-fav. 6 ran. 30l, 11l. R Rowe. Tote: £9.30; £3.00, £2.50. DF: £41.60. CSF: £84.63.

3.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Gysart (A P McCoy, 100-30); 2, Runaway Pete (16-1); 3, Smith Too (12-1). Mentmore Towers (f) 11-8 fav. 12 ran. 7l, 15l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.10; £2.00, £3.60, £3.00. DF: £47.30. Trio: £91.30. CSF: £50.20. Tricast: £540.08.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £7,682.01 carried forward to Cheltenham today).

Placepot: £420.60. Quadpot: £141.90.

Doncaster

Going: good

12.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Tabriz (O Pears, 3-1); 2, Silent Valley (5-4 fav); 3, Recruitment (13-2). 12 ran. 4l, 12l. Mrs P Avison. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £1.20, £1.40. DF: £4.00. Trio: £5.10. CSF: £8.50.

1.00 (3m ch) 1, Cash Flow (P Carberry, 4-1); 2, Spring Gale (1-3 fav); 3, Torus Spa (8-1). 4 ran. 7l, dist. J J O'Neill. Tote: £3.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £5.79.

1.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Un Poco Loco (G Lee, 20-1); 2, Gutteridge (7-4 fav); 3, Oakbury (10-1). 7 ran. 4l, ½l. Mrs J Brown. Tote: £28.60; £7.60, £1.80. DF: £38.90. CSF: £51.23.

2.10 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Potter's Bay (R Thornton, 3-1); 2, Speaker Weatherill (5-8 fav); 3, Garnwin (7-1). 4 ran. 1½l, 6l. D Nicholson. Tote: £3.70. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.61.

2.45 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Green Green Desert (P Carberry, 3-1); 2, Monnaie Forte (9-4 fav); 3, Bold Boss (9-2). 6 ran. Nk, 11l. O Sherwood. Tote: £2.70; £1.70, £1.60. DF: £3.10. CSF: £8.94.

3.20 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Regal Absence (R Thornton, 3-1 fav); 2, Sushi Bar (12-1); 3, Wurlitzer (7-1). 14 ran. NR: Galaina. 2½l, 7l. D Nicholson. Tote: £3.90; £1.50, £3.40, £2.20. DF: £40.00. Trio: £98.40. CSF: £36.57.

Placepot: £207.20. Quadpot: £48.60.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.40 (1m 5f) 1, Kailey Senor (F Norton, 8-1); 2, Rehaab (7-1); 3, Harlequin Walk (7-1). Vrennan 13-8 fav. 11 ran. ¾l, 2½l. R Armstrong. Tote: £12.30; £2.30, £3.50, £1.50. DF: £56.50. Trio: £45.80. CSF: £59.10. Tricast: £381.80.

1.10 (5f) 1, Chipstead Bay (C Scally, 11-10 fav); 2, Just Dissident (9-2); 3, Opening Range (7-2). 8 ran. 3l, ¾l. K Ivory. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £4.70. CSF: £6.58. Tricast: £14.13.

1.45 (6f) 1, Muja's Magic (N Adams, 10-1); 2, Batchworth Belle (4-1); 3, Private Seal (3-1 jt-fav). Blue Shadow 3-1 jt-fav. 7 ran. Hd, ¾l. K Ivory. Tote: £6.90; £2.70, £2.80. DF: £11.60. CSF: £48.12.

2.20 (7f) 1, Bali Dance (N Adams, 12-1); 2, Appyabo (4-1); 3, Lady Laphroaig (12-1). Bow Bells 2-1 fav. 10 ran. 2½l, 5l. C Booth. Tote: £12.50; £3.00, £2.30, £4.00. DF: £15.80. Trio: £138.10. CSF: £58.81.

2.55 (1m 2f) 1, Polished Steel (P Doe, 9-2); 2, Awesome Power (11-1); 3, Billaddie (11-2). Mukhlles 11-4 fav. 8 ran. NR: Twin Time. 5l, 2½l. Lady Herries. Tote: £4.40; £2.10, £2.10, £2.50. DF: £25.00. Trio: £55.30. CSF: £49.22.

3.30 (1m) 1, Benzhaf (A Clark, 10-1); 2, Twin Creeks (12-1); 3, White Plains (11-8 fav). 12 ran. 1l, ¾l. G L Moore. Tote: £13.30; £3.40, £2.50, £1.40. DF: £36.30. Trio: £44.40. CSF: £119.40. Tricast: £252.82.

Placepot: £109.10.

Quadpot: £64.00.

The fun of the cup — and £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, a league within the ITF.

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated. Any team in the ITF prior to 12 noon today will automatically receive 20 extra transfers in addition to their current allocation. After 12 noon, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. **Entrants must be 18 years or over.**

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if approprate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (studenr's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

PREMIERSHIP CLUBS IN FA CUP DRAW

Portsmouth v Aston Villa
Arsenal v Port Vale
Leicester City v Northampton Town or Basingstoke Town
Leeds United v Oxford United
Everton v Newcastle United
Liverpool v Coventry City
West Ham United v Lincoln City or Emley
Derby County v Southampton
Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham
Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe United or Ilkeston Town
Torquay United or Watford v Sheffield Wednesday
Chelsea v Manchester United
Wimbledon v Wrexham
Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic
Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers

Ties to be played on January 3 and 4

ITF Terms and conditions. 1 You must enter through the media channel you wish to play by. 2 Entries must comply with the specifications of the team as listed right. 3 There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 4 No responsibility is accepted for late or lost entries due to circumstances beyond our control. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete entries are null and void with no refund. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. 5 The ITF committee's decision is final regarding all aspects of ITF. 6 Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only (most push button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). 7 Promotional and explanatory copy relating to The Times, The Sunday Times ITF in association with LineOne, the Internet and Sky Sports Interactive. 8 Players values will be reassessed at the end of January and March. 9 Official updated players/managers lists will be published in The Times. 10 The top prize goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points in the FA Cup league. In the event of there being more than one winner, a tiebreak will operate. There are no monthly prizes. 11 The top prize for the main ITF game goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points throughout the 1997-98 football season. There are also second and third place prizes. In the event of there being more than one winner in any of these positions, a tie break will operate. 12 The manager of the month prize will go to the entrant whose team scores the most points in any one month. This applies to the main ITF game, the mini leagues and the Internet league. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a winner will be chosen at random. 13 No team will be eligible to win a prize unless they have abided by the competition rules. 14 Scores will count for the English and Scottish premier division and FA Cup/Tennents Cup (involving English and Scottish premier division teams) matches for the 1997-98 season. 15 Calls for entries should take approximately eight minutes. Calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from pay phones cost approximately double. 16 The competition is not open to employees of News International, BSkyB, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 17 If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points. 18 Full explanations on how your players will score points, how to transfer and how to check your score and position in the league are printed every week in The Times. 19 You may also enter a new team by LineOne, the Internet (call 0800 111 210 for details) and by Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118)

THE ITF FA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner

HOW TO PLAY

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:
You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.
Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.
You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students') if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone. You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score. (A new team will score points on future games in the ITF and mini league.) Calls last about eight minutes and cost 50p per minute (calls made from a pay phone cost approximately double).

To enter, call

0891 405 011

(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

sky sports interactive

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ (Up to 16 characters)
Goalkeeper ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ____
Manager ☐☐☐☐☐ ____

First Name ____
Surname ____
Address ____
____
Postcode ____ Daytime Tel ____
Cheque / PO No. ____

This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
☐ Women's League ☐ Student League

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐
How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐
How often do you read The Times? Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐
Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐
If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
20403	D Bernard	Barnsley	1.00
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20503	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
20601	N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
20602	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20603	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
22101	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
22102	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22103	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22301	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
22302	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.00
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22803	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00
22902	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50
22903	T Breacker	West Ham United	2.00
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.00
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00
31404	C Tiler	Everton	1.50
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50
31802	G Halle	Leeds United	2.00
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00
31804	L Radebe	Leeds United	2.00
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00
30501	H Berg	Manchester United	3.50
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
32301	P Albert	Newcastle United	2.50
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	2.00
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle United	3.00
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.00
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
32904	I Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40601	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50
40602	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00
41802	A Haaland	Leeds United	2.00
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds United	2.50
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.00
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.50
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle United	3.00
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	6.50
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00
42403	J Thern	Rangers	3.00
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50
42601	A Sakarlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42803	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	6.00
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	5.50
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	6.00
50602	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	3.50
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton Wanderers	3.00
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	4.50
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds United	3.00
51803	R Wallace	Leeds United	3.50
51804	H Kewell	Leeds United	2.00
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	7.50
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester United	7.00
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	6.00
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.00
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.00
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle United	2.00
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	7.50
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52803	J Dominguez	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	4.50
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	1.50
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
60601	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.00
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50
62602	C Gross	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00

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Chancery Division

Law Report December 13 1997

Ombudsman's power no more than court's

Edge and Others v Pensions Ombudsman and Another

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor

[Judgment December 5]

The Pension Ombudsman had no power to direct steps to be taken that a court of law could not. He could not therefore direct a deed to be set aside as against parties who had not been parties to his investigation or been given an opportunity to be heard.

Where trustees had a discretionary power to choose between different beneficiaries it was meaningless to speak of a duty to act impartially.

Where pension scheme rules required some of the trustees to be employees and in the proper exercise of their discretion the trustees increased benefits to employees, there was no need for the individuals, who were both trustees and employees to account for the benefits so received.

Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division allowing the appeal of Thomas Edge and 17 others, as trustees of the Industrial Training Boards pensions funds, against the decision of the Pensions Ombudsman that amendments made by a deed dated August 17, 1993 to the scheme rules of the pension fund were invalid. The respondents were the Pensions Ombudsman and Eric Christian George Nicholson who represented the pensioners.

Mr David Unwin, QC and Mr James Clifford for the trustees; Ms Tess Gill for the ombudsman; Mr Nicholson did not appear and was not represented.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that there was a substantial surplus in the pension funds which attracted adverse taxation consequences. The trustees therefore wished to eliminate excessive surplus by making disbursements which required amendments to the scheme rules.

The trustees' amendments to the rules reduced the contributions to be paid by members and provided an additional pension benefit for members in service at April 1, 1994.

A number of pensioners who were no longer liable to pay contributions and so did not benefit from the reduction in contributions and who, being no longer in service, did not qualify for the additional pension benefit, complained that the amendments were unjust.

Part X of the Pensions Act 1993 dealt with the powers and jurisdiction of the Pension Ombudsman in the investigation of complaints of maladministration and disputes of fact and law in the management of pension schemes and the procedure to be adopted in his investigations.

The Pension Ombudsman held that the trustees had acted in breach of trust. None of the employers nor any of the members was a party to the proceedings before the Pensions Ombudsman and had been given no opportunity to comment pursuant to section 149(1)(b) of the 1993 Act although the trustees' comments had been fully heard.

The problem with the provisions of Part X of the 1993 Act taken as a whole was that they did not cater at all for a case in which a complaint was made against, say, trustees, but in which the remedial steps to be taken if the complaint was well founded would prejudice the position of some third party or parties.

His Lordship held that Parliament could not have intended to give the ombudsman power to determine disputes which involved the rights of others or to direct steps to be taken which adversely affected third parties not before him.

It followed that Parliament could not have intended him to entertain complaints which could only be remedied by such steps or determine disputes in circumstances in which his determination could not be effective.

He considered the provisions of Part X and referred to *Hillsdown Holdings plc v Pensions Ombudsman* ([1997] 1 All ER 862), *Westminster City Council v Haywood* ([1996] 3 WLR 563) and *Wild v Pensions Ombudsman* (*The Times* April 17, 1996) and said that in a case in which the maladministration complained of consisted of an alleged breach of trust, the Pensions Ombudsman had no power to direct remedial steps to be taken that were not steps that a court of law could properly have directed to be taken.

The steps directed to be taken by the trustees in the present case were based on the premise that the deed of amendment was being set aside. But the beneficiaries under the deed, namely, the employee members, were not parties to the proceedings. The deed could not be set aside as against them.

The setting aside of the deed would increase the amount of the contributions to be paid by the employers. The employers were given no opportunity to make representations. The ombudsman did not treat them as parties.

In those circumstances, and having regard to the respective positions of the employee members and the employers, a court could not have ordered the deed to be set aside. A court could not have directed the trustees to take steps that could only be justified on the footing that the deed had been set aside. Nor, in his Lordship's judgment, could the Pensions Ombudsman do so.

Second, the ombudsman found that the trustees in reaching their decision "breached their duty of impartiality ... did not act in the best interests of all the beneficiaries and ... exercised their power for an improper purpose".

But in relation to a discretionary power to choose which beneficiaries, or which classes of beneficiaries, should be the recipients of trust benefits, it was meaningless to speak of a duty on the trustees to act impartially.

Trustees, when exercising a discretionary power to choose, should not of course take into account irrelevant, irrational or improper factors. But, provided they avoided doing so, they were entitled to choose and to prefer some beneficiaries over others.

It was the trustees' discretion that was to be exercised. Except in a case in which the discretion had been surrendered to the court it was not for a judge to exercise the discretion.

The judge might disagree with the manner in which trustees had exercised their discretion but, unless they could be seen to have taken into account irrelevant, improper or irrational factors, or unless their decision could be said to be one that no reasonable body of trustees properly directing themselves could have reached, the judge could not interfere. In particular he could not interfere simply on the ground that the partiality shown to the preferred beneficiaries was in his opinion undue.

The trustees were the judges of whether or not their exercise of the power was fair as between the benefited beneficiaries and other beneficiaries. Their exercise of the discretionary power could not be set aside simply because a judge, whether the Pensions Ombudsman or any other species of judge, thought it was not fair.

Third, the Pensions Ombudsman held that the trustees who were members in service were accountable for any benefit to which they had already or might in the future become entitled under the deed of amendment so that they would not receive any profit from their position as trustees.

That made no sense when applied to the instant pension scheme and the facts of the case and did not represent the law. The pension scheme rules required there to be member trustees who were current employees of an employer participating in the scheme.

The notion that, when the discretionary power of amendment was exercised so as to increase an existing benefit or add a new benefit, the member trustees had to be excluded from benefit was, in his Lordship's opinion, quite simply ridiculous.

The rules themselves contemplated that, as trustees, the employee members would from time to time have to exercise discretions in which their duty and interest might conflict.

In those circumstances there was no rule of equity that required them to account for the benefits that an entirely proper exercise of discretionary powers might produce for them. The member trustees were not accountable for benefits accruing to them, whether in respect of reduced contributions or the additional service benefit, as a result of their decision taken on April 30, 1993.

Solicitors: Richards Butler; Mr John Yolland, Putney.

Court of Appeal

Compensation payable on reinvestment

Regina v Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd, Ex parte Taylor

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Potter and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment December 4]

Although the statutory scheme for compensating investors was not retrospective, a post-scheme agreement to reinvest moneys originally invested before it came into force was compensatable, even though the original sums had been misappropriated before the inception of the scheme.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Joseph Taylor, from the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Tucker) (*The Times* December 27, 1996) which had dismissed his application for judicial review in respect of a decision by the Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd that he was not eligible for compensation in respect of his claims for the loss of an investment made through Beechcroft Insurance Brokers, the trading name of a Mr Barrett, who was authorised to carry on investment business by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Association (Fimbra).

Mr Neil Kitchener for Mr Taylor; Mr Jonathan R. McManus for ICS Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the money was given to Mr Barrett in March 1986. An ICS report later concluded that Mr Taylor's funds were, in common with those of other Beechcroft investors paid into a bank account and held there before being misappropriated by Mr Barrett.

On April 22, 1988 Beechcroft was authorised to conduct investment business by Fimbra and on August 28, 1988 the scheme took effect. In March 1991 Mr Taylor withdrew interest of £800.

In April 1991, at the expiry of the fixed term of Mr Taylor's investment, Mr Barrett represented to him that the amount due to him, together with interest was £24,000. He withdrew £2,000 interest and was then persuaded to reinvest the remainder for a further five years.

He handed back all his documentation received in 1986 in return for a certificate, dated April 20, 1991, which said: "This confirms your investment of £22,000 on April 1, 1991."

The Financial Services (Compensation of Investors) Rules 1990, made pursuant to section 54 of the Financial Services Act 1986, as amended by the 1991 Rules, provided: "Nothing in any rules made under section 54 of the Act is to be interpreted (if it otherwise would be) as authorising the payment of compensation on a claim except to the extent that the claim is a claim in respect of any civil liability incurred on or after December 18, 1986 in connection with the investment business of a person who, at the time compensation is to be paid, is or has been an authorised person."

In giving the leading judgment of the Divisional Court, Lord Justice Staughton referred to the grounds on which it was contended Mr Taylor could claim against Mr Barrett in respect of the 1991 reinvestment.

He said: "Each of those claims depends to a greater or lesser extent on estoppel, as to the existence of the £22,000."

He then referred to the decision in *Securities and Investment Board v Fimbra* ([1992] Ch 268) and to the fact that the revised rule 102.3 was framed as an overriding provision to reflect the provision that: "As Mr Justice Morritt held, the statute conferred no power to make rules in respect of liability incurred before the commencement date of the First Schedule."

He later said: "It is true that Mr Taylor did not discover the loss until November 1992. I suppose because it was deliberately concealed from him. But the liability was incurred when Mr Barrett made off with the money. What happened thereafter was fiction."

Their Lordships noted that Lord Justice Staughton considered that the warrant for focusing, not upon what seemed to them to be the clear wording of the statutory scheme, but the assumed underlying purpose of the Act, was the fact that the scheme was a mutual scheme requiring honest traders to make good the losses caused by their dishonest rivals. However, their Lordships considered that even if it was right to regard the scheme set up and funded under the statutory power in section 54 as a "mutual scheme" in any conventional sense, that was insufficient reason to place a limitation upon what seemed to them to be the underlying purpose of the Act, namely to compensate members of the public in respect of claims against defaulting authorised persons for losses effected by such persons after the commencement of the scheme: compare *R v Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd, Ex parte Weyell* ([1994] QB 749, 767B).

Paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of section 54(2) of the 1986 Act provided in unqualified terms for rules to establish a fund out of which compensation was to be paid; and for the specification of the terms and conditions on which and the extent to which compensation was to be payable.

Those rules appeared to be couched in terms suitable to be applied to the payment of claims for breach of contract and deceit of the type relied on by Mr Taylor as arising from the 1991 transaction.

Given the manner in which the 1991 transaction arose, it seemed to their Lordships to be no answer to dismiss what happened after 1986 as mere fiction.

Whether considered as historic events, or as material facts giving rise to a claim in respect of civil liability, what happened to Mr Taylor was real enough.

He had the fate of his earlier investment misrepresented to him, and on that basis, instead of asking for his money back, he entered into a bona fide transaction, at least on his part, that a debt which he was due to be repaid should be left with Beechcroft as an interest-bearing investment for a further five years.

In sum, their Lordships considered that the 1991 claim was in accord with the wording of rule 1.02.3. They also considered that, on the evidence before them, ICS might be satisfied under the rules that Mr Taylor had a claim against Beechcroft which was a scheme business claim as defined there.

Solicitors: Robinsons, Derby; Wilde Sapte.

Judge has power to extend time

Director of Public Prosecutions v Coleman

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Garland

[Judgment November 26]

A judge was entitled to grant an application for an extension of time for applying for a case to be stated by the crown court without involving in the decision the other members of the court which heard the appeal.

Where the prosecution made such an application, the acquitted defendant was entitled to make representations to the court before the application was determined.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by the prosecution by way of case stated from Southwark Crown Court (Judge Mercer and justices) which had allowed an appeal by Valerie Ann Coleman from her conviction by Mr Roger Davis, Horseferry Road Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, for failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis, contrary to section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mr Nigel J. Ley for the defendant; Mr John McGuinness for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the prosecution's application out of time to the crown court to state a case had been heard by the judge on his own without the two justices who had tried the appeal in the crown court with him, and the defendant had not had the opportunity to make representations. The judge had allowed the application, extending the time limit under rule 26(14) of the Crown Court Rules (SI 1982 No 1109). Two questions arose:

The first was whether the judge was entitled to grant such an extension of time without involving the other members of the court which had heard the appeal.

In his Lordship's judgment the use of the expression "crown court" rather than "judge" in rule 26(14) did not require the participation of the other justices, but reflected the possibility that some other judge might consider the application. A judge was entitled to consider an application for extension of time on his own.

The second question was whether an acquitted defendant was entitled to make representations to the court before such an application was determined. In his Lordship's judgment, an acquitted defendant was entitled to expect that he would hear no more of the allegation against him, subject to the prosecution's right of appeal.

A situation in which the prosecution could extend that right by seeking an extension of time, without the defendant having the opportunity to make representations would be intolerable.

The procedure which should be followed upon a prosecution application to extend time in which to apply to state a case was as follows:

1 The defendant should be notified of the application.

2 The terms of the application should be disclosed to him and he should be told of his right to make representations.

3 The court should consider the representations of both parties and the defendant should have the opportunity to deal with all representations made by the prosecution.

4 The court could normally consider the application on the basis of written representations and the need for an oral hearing would rarely arise.

Extensions of time should not routinely be granted to the prosecution, but cogent reasons should be required of them, to be considered against the background that an acquitted defendant had some expectation that, subject to rule 26, the case was at an end.

The judge had not been entitled to grant the extension of time and the defendant's acquittal must stand.

Mr Justice Garland agreed.

Solicitors: J. E. Armah & Co, Leytonstone; Crown Prosecution Service, Horseferry Road.

Challenging independent school assisted place decision

Regina v Cobham Hall School, Ex parte S

Before Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment November 27]

Decisions of independent schools participating in the assisted places scheme were susceptible to judicial review.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division and declared unlawful (on November 28) a decision of Cobham Hall School, Kent, to withdraw from S, a pupil, aged 14, acting by her mother and next friend, her assisted place.

Mrs Wendy Outhwaite for the school; Mr Gerard Clarke for the applicant.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that in 1996 the applicant was selected for an assisted place at the school which was run by a company limited by guarantee.

The school was a participating school for the purposes of the assisted places scheme which was governed by sections 479 to 481 of the Education Act 1996 and the Education Assisted Places Regulations (SI 1995 No 2016) The assisted places scheme was discontinued by the Education (Schools) Act 1997 but assisted places granted prior to the 1997-1998 school year were to continue in place.

On June 27, 1997 the head teacher of the school informed the applicant's parents by telephone and in writing that her assisted place was to be withdrawn. Prior to that the applicant had been in detentions and on report for unacceptable behaviour and had produced poor examination results. No opportunity for representations or any appeal against the decision was allowed.

Mrs Outhwaite submitted that the school was not a public body. It was a private independent school with a chain of contracts between the school and the parents of pupils. The school was not a public body in relation to pupils with assisted places as the source of its power was not statutory but to be found in the participating agreement between it and the secretary of state.

Mr Clarke submitted that in most contexts the school was not a public body but that as regarded pupils within the assisted places scheme it was carrying out the functions of a public body within a statutory framework: see *R v Governors of Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College Trust, Ex parte T* (*The Times* October 19, 1994) were a decision of city technology college was held susceptible to judicial review.

His Lordship said that on reviewing the evidence objectively the decision taken by the head teacher was to withdraw and reallocate the assisted place and not to expel the applicant.

No one factor was determinative of whether there was jurisdiction to hear judicial review proceedings: see *R v Panel on Take-overs and Mergers, Ex parte Datafin plc* ([1987] 1 QB 815).

As to pupils with assisted places, the school was exercising a public function. Parliament had empowered the secretary of state to fund the education of pupils with assisted places at independent schools. The Act and the Regulations defined the criteria for admission and gave the secretary of state a power of control over the funding of the school.

Regarding private law it was doubtful whether there was a contract between the school and the parents of pupils as no consideration had passed and there was no intention to create legal relations.

It was clear the school was acting beyond its powers as the Act and Regulations gave it no power to withdraw an assisted place.

It was *not* necessary to consider *Wednesbury* unreasonableness ([1948] 1 KB 223) but the overwhelming impression was that the school's action was completely unexpected to the applicant who was given no opportunity to make any appeal or representations. In that the school acted contrary to the rules of natural justice.

Solicitors: Brachers, Maidstone. Teacher Stern Selby.

Can jury safely convict?

Regina v Brown (Jamie)

A judge had a responsibility to consider whether there was evidence on which the jury could safely convict, even in the absence of a submission of no case.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Holland and Judge Clarke, QC) so stated on November 17 when allowing the appeal of Jamie Brown against his conviction on May 16, 1997 at Northampton Crown Court (Judge Julian Hall and a jury) of robbery.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that if at the conclusion of all the evidence a trial judge was of the view that no reasonable jury properly directed could safely convict, generally speaking he should raise that view for discussion with counsel in the absence of the jury, whether or not a submission of no case had been made at the conclusion of the prosecution case. If, having heard submissions, he remained of that view he should withdraw the case from the jury.

That would make it unlikely that difficulties would arise from a trial judge writing to the Court of Appeal expressing doubt about the safety of the jury's verdict.

As was said in *R v Jones* (unreported, CA, May 10, 1997) it was not the job of a judge either to decide guilt or to cast doubt on a jury's finding.

Their Lordships would not have regard to a letter written in this case, but because the judge did not direct the jury what to do if they rejected the appellant's alibi evidence, the verdict could not be regarded as safe.

Private life outwith scope of job health test

R v Croydon Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment November 25]

Where a health authority radiologist examining a woman as a prospective employee failed to report a serious heart condition, whose symptoms could be exacerbated by pregnancy, and the woman went on to conceive and give birth to a healthy wanted child, there was no loss which could give rise to a claim for damages in respect of the normal expenses of pregnancy and the cost of bringing up the child.

Even if the conception and pregnancy could be regarded as a form of damage, the connection between the breach of duty and the damage was too remote as the radiologist's duty did not extend to the woman's private life.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal by Croydon Health Authority against part of the award by Mr Justice Astill of May 15, 1997 of damages to Mrs R.

Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Miss E. A. Gumbel for Mrs R; Mr Adrian Whitfield, QC and Miss Mary O'Rourke for the health authority.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that Mr Whitfield submitted that in every case in England in which damages had been awarded for a "wrongful birth" the child had been either not wanted at all or not wanted in its disabled condition.

Partly because of the width of the field it was not possible to devise an approach which would indicate in any given case when the damage was done which enabled the cause of action for personal injuries to accrue. The problem was addressed in *Walkin v South Manchester Health Authority* ([1995] 1 WLR 1543, 1550C, 1553C).

Conception could not always be the touchstone because sometimes in that class of case it preceded the breach of duty, but when the mother wanted both the pregnancy and the healthy child, there was simply no loss which could give rise to a claim for damages in respect of either the normal expenses and trauma of pregnancy or the costs of bringing up the child.

Even if the conception and pregnancy could be regarded as a form of damage, Mr Whitfield argued there was no sufficient connection between that damage and the radiologist's breach of duty to enable a court to say that the damage flowed from the breach.

Mr Stewart relied on *Page v Smith* ([1996] 1 AC 155) which established that once a defendant owed a duty of care to avoid causing personal injury to a plaintiff, it mattered not whether the injury in fact sustained was physical or psychiatric or both.

His Lordship accepted entirely that a defendant must take his victim as he found him, but he did not accept that in *Page v Smith* the House of Lords was extending the boundaries of foreseeability in that way.

His Lordship accepted that the plaintiff's domestic life fell outside the scope of the radiologist's duty.

Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick agreed.

Solicitors: Field Fisher Waterhouse; Capsticks, Putney.

Losses from default

BEM Dis A Turk Ticaret S/A TR v International Agri Trade Co Ltd

Clause 28(c) of GAFTA Form 100 did not exclude a party's right to recover losses directly and naturally resulting from a defaulting party's breach of contract.

Mr Justice Clarke so held in the Queen's Bench Division on October 31 when dismissing an appeal by BEM Dis A Turk Ticaret S/A TR against an award of $65,000 damages payable to International Agri Trade Co Ltd made by the GAFTA Board of Appeal on March 17, 1997.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the appellants had breached a contract for the sale of goods, which incorporated GAFTA Form 100, causing the respondents to have to compensate the shippers of the goods for cancellation of the charterparty. The appellants argued that clause 28(c) of GAFTA 100, which stated that "damages payable shall be based on the difference between the contract price and either the default price ... or upon the actual or estimated value of the goods, on the date of default..." precluded the respondents from recovering damages for the expense of the cancellation.

In his Lordship's judgment, clause 28 was intended to regulate the position where the claim was for the difference between the contract price and the default price or the market or ascertained value, and for loss of profit. But "shall be based on" was not the same as "shall be limited to", and clause 28(c) did not exclude claims for wasted expenditure or the kind of foreseeable loss which the respondents incurred.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Female priority need not breach equal treatment directive

Marschall v Land Nordrhein-Westfalen

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. Gulmann, H. Ragnemalm, M. Wathelet, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and L. Sevón

Advocate General F. G. Jacobs (Opinion May 15)

[Judgment November 11]

A national rule whereby female candidates for promotion were to be given priority over equally qualified men if women were under-represented in the post, unless reasons specific to an individual male candidate tilted the balance in his favour, was not contrary to the Community equal treatment directive, provided certain conditions were satisfied.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Verwaltungsgericht (Administrative Court), Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

Paragraph 25 of the Law on Civil Servants of the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen provided that where there were fewer women than men in a particular higher grade post in a career bracket, women were to be given priority for promotion in the event of equal suitability, competence and professional performance, "unless reasons specific to an individual [male] candidate tilt the balance in his favour".

The plaintiff's application for promotion to an A13 teaching post was rejected on the ground that there were fewer women than men in career bracket A13, so that a particular female candidate who was equally qualified would be appointed.

In proceedings brought by him the plaintiff claimed that paragraph 25 was incompatible with Council Directive 76/207/EEC of February 9, 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (OJ 1976 L39, p40).

Article 2 of Directive 76/207 provides: "(1) ... the principle of equal treatment shall mean that there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex either directly or indirectly...

"(4) This directive shall be without prejudice to measures to promote equal opportunity for men and women, in particular by removing existing inequalities which affect women's opportunities..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

In *Kalanke v Freie Hansestadt Bremen* (*The Times* October 26, 1995; [1996] ICR 314; [1995] ECR I-3051, paragraph 16), the court had held that a national rule which provided that, where equally qualified men and women were candidates for the same promotion in fields where there were fewer women than men at the level of the relevant post, women were automatically to be given priority, involved discrimination on the ground of sex contrary to Directive 76/207.

However, the rule in the present case was different, by reason of the saving clause at the end.

It was necessary to consider whether such a rule came within article 2(4) of the directive.

That provision was specifically and exclusively designed to authorise measures which, although discriminatory in appearance, were in fact intended to eliminate or reduce actual instances of inequality which might exist in the reality of social life.

It thus authorised measures relating to access to employment, including promotion, which gave a specific advantage to women with a view to improving their ability to compete on the labour market and to pursue a career on an equal footing with men: see *Kalanke* (paragraph 19).

It appeared that even where male and female candidates were equally qualified, men tended to be promoted in preference to women particularly because of prejudices and stereotypes concerning the role and capacities of women in working life and the fear, for example, that women would interrupt their careers more frequently, that owing to household and family duties they would be less flexible in their working hours, or that they would be absent from work more frequently because of pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

For those reasons, the mere fact that a male and female candidate were equally qualified did not mean that they had the same chances.

It followed that a national rule in terms of which, subject to the application of the saving clause, equally qualified female candidates were to be treated preferentially in sectors where they were under-represented could fall within the scope of article 2(4) if such a rule might counteract the prejudicial effects on female candidates of the attitudes and behaviour described above, and thus reduce actual instances of inequality.

However, since article 2(4) constituted a derogation from an individual right laid down in the directive, such a national measure could not guarantee absolute and unconditional priority for women without going beyond the limits of the exception laid down in that provision: see *Kalanke* (paragraphs 21 and 22).

But a national rule containing a saving clause such as that in the present case did not exceed those limits if, in each individual case, it provided for certain conditions to be satisfied.

The Court ruled:

A national rule which, in a case where there were fewer women than men at the level of the relevant post in a sector of the public service and both female and male candidates for the post were equally qualified in terms of their suitability, competence and professional performance, required that priority be given to the promotion of female candidates unless reasons specific to an individual male candidate tilted the balance in his favour, was not precluded by article 2(1) and (4) of Directive 76/207, provided that:

(1) In each individual case the rule provided for male candidates who were equally as qualified as the female candidates a guarantee that the candidatures would be the subject of an objective assessment which would take account of all criteria specific to the candidates and would override the priority accorded to female candidates where one or more of those criteria tilted the balance in favour of the male candidate, and

(2) Such criteria were not such as to discriminate against the female candidates.

Recognition of documents issued by other states

Dafeki v Landesversicherungsanstalt Württemberg

Case C-336/94

In proceedings for determining the entitlements to social security benefits of a migrant worker who was a Community national, the competent social security institutions and the courts of a member state had to accept certificates and analogous documents relative to personal status issued by the competent authorities of the other member states, unless their accuracy was seriously undermined by concrete evidence relating to the individual case in question.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on December 2 on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Sozialgericht (Social Court), Hamburg for a preliminary ruling on a question of interpretation of articles 48 and 51 of the Treaty, on freedom of movement for workers.

The proceedings concerned the refusal of an application by Mrs Dafeki, who was of Greek nationality and worked in Germany, for early retirement benefit, on the ground that under German law a presumption of accuracy was accorded to certificates of civil status issued in Germany but not to ones drawn up in another country, and that accordingly, under further, related, German law, account would be taken only of Mrs Dafeki's original birth certificate, and not of a subsequent rectification of it made by a Greek court.

The Court drew attention to the wide differences existing in the national legal orders as to the conditions and procedures for rectification of a date of birth, which had not yet been the subject of harmonisation or mutual recognition, and said that while the administrative and judicial authorities of a member state were not required under Community law to treat subsequent rectifications of certificates of civil status made by the competent authorities of their own state and ones by the authorities of another state as equivalent, nevertheless exercise of the rights arising from freedom of movement for workers was not possible without production of documents relative to personal status, which were generally issued by the worker's state of origin.

No special reason

Director of Public Prosecutions v Jowle

Special reasons did not apply so as to allow the court not to disqualify a driver who had not realised that he was drunk, but was aware of some effect, and drove while over the limit for alcohol because he had become addicted to a mouthwash.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mrs Justice Smith) so held on October 30 when allowing a prosecution appeal against the decision of Lichfield Justices not to disqualify Robert Jowle for driving while over the alcohol limit but to endorse his licence nine points and impose a fine of £500.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the respondent had not knowingly drunk alcohol for 21 years. The justices found the that he was addicted to Listerine, a mouthwash containing 26.9 per cent by volume of alcohol.

He did not associate the "lift" obtained with the effects of alcohol. Although aware of the effect on him he did not feel out of control while driving.

In the opinion of the justices special reasons could be found for not disqualifying him. The question was whether the justices were perverse in their decision.

The respondent knew that if he had taken Listerine it would give him a lift. He drove in a way that was plainly erratic. The appeal was allowed.

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go

It's the only way to go shopping

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V W gives it some thought

Page 49

Cycles complete the full circle

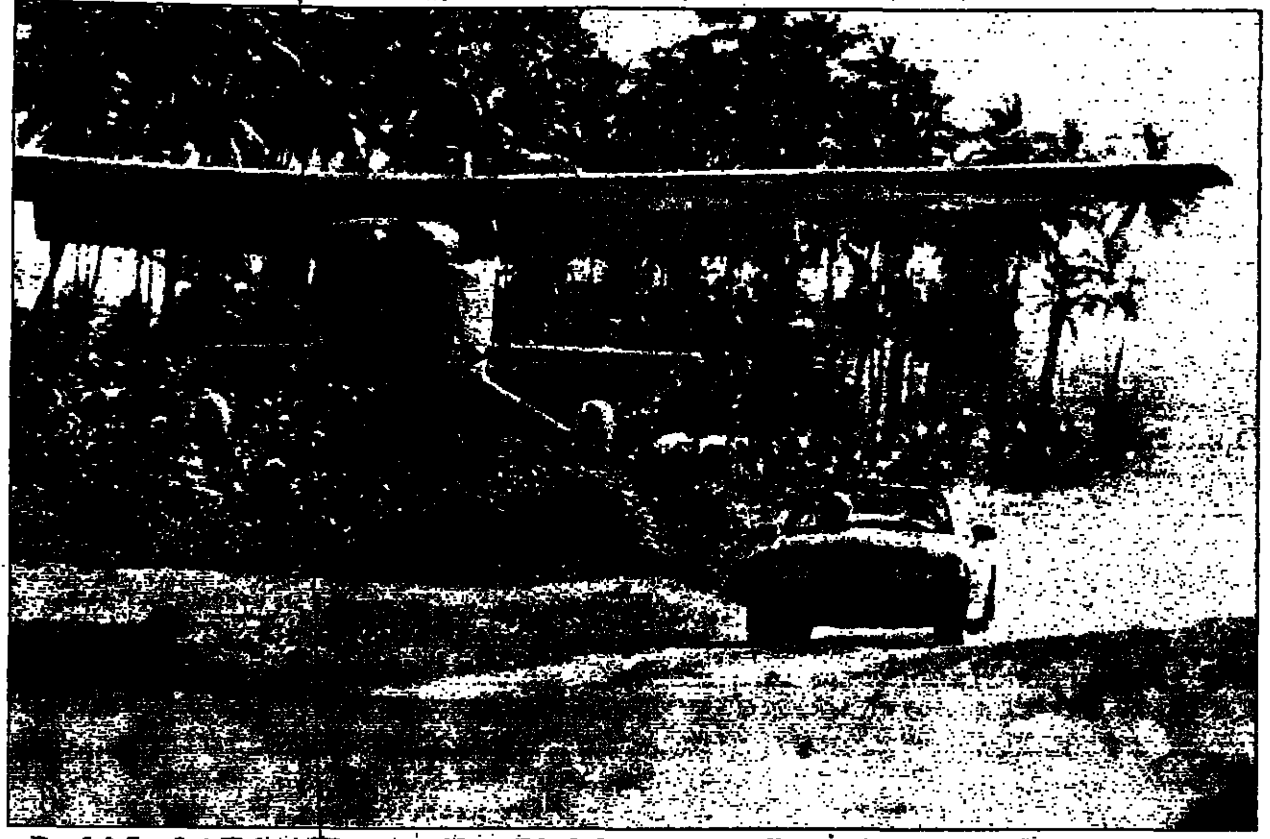
Page 51

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

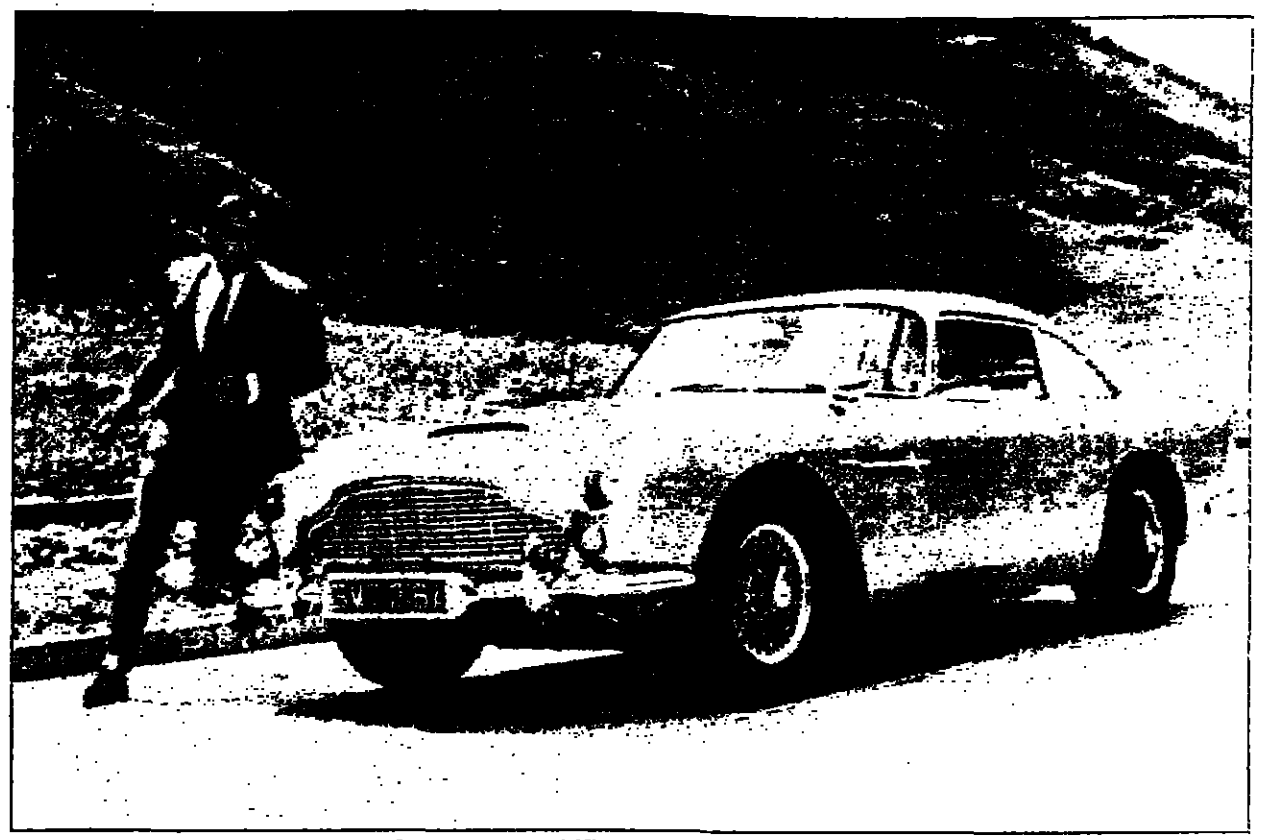
Sorry, Mr Bond, not even for you

[illegible] CAN'T BUY FOR CHRISTMAS . . .

. . . BUT YOU COULD MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY WITH ONE OF THESE



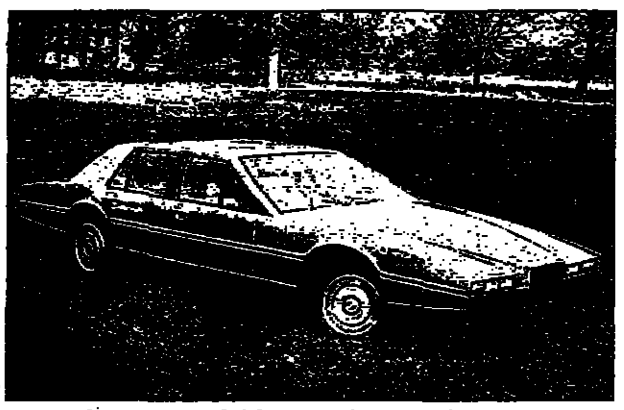
Bond defies the villains of *Tomorrow Never Dies* in his BMW Z3: off-screen he'd have to join the queue for one



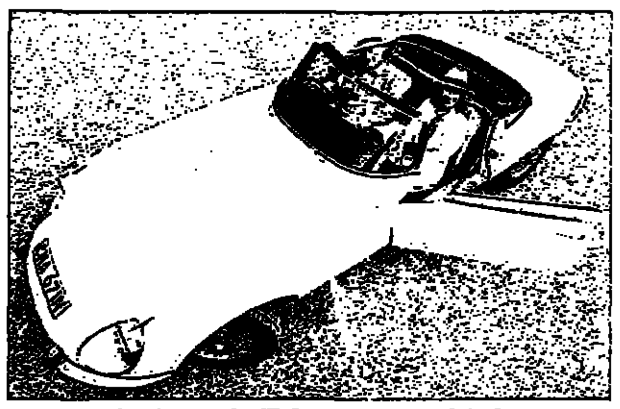
An Aston Martin DB5 — as driven by Bond in *Goldfinger* — costs a fortune, but a lookalike is available at £25,000

Land Rover Defender: now with a 10-week order book

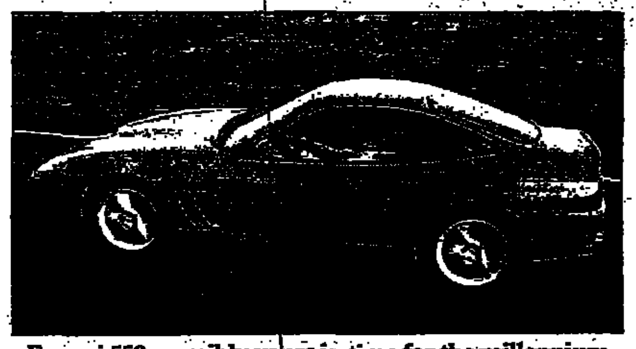
Jaguar XK8: order one now and wait for six months



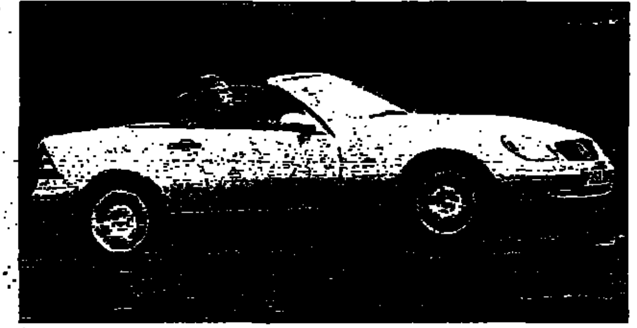
Lagonda: a wonderful folly can be yours for only £12,950



E-type: definitive, and still the most beautiful of sportsters



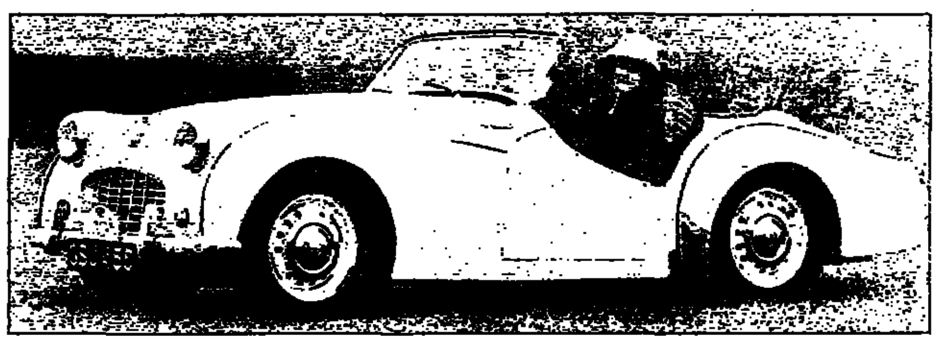
Ferrari 550: possibly yours in time for the millennium



Mercedes SLK: two years off and premiums up to £10,000

WAITING TIMES

SLK: 24 months
CLK: 36 months
MGF: 4 months
BMW Z3: 6 months
Freelander: 4 months
Defender: 4 months
Ferrari F550: 2 years
Lotus Elise: 18 months
Jaguar XK8: 6 months
Continental R: 4 months
Porsche Boxster: 14 months



Triumph TR3: a cute, thoroughbred English classic that is not going to break the bank

You won't be getting 007's new car for Christmas. It's just one of the models on a long waiting list, says **Kevin Eason**

She sighed and rolled over on the crisp white linen sheets, her cobalt blue eyes piercing deep into his. This Christmas could be their last together if Smersh had its way, so there had to be one last gift, a memory of their ecstatic moments of pleasure.

"Just leave me your car, James," she whispered, caressing the nape of his neck, trailing each contour in his muscled shoulders. "The BMW. I will remember you always in that car. Every time I change gear, you will be in my mind."

Bond — for the name was James Bond — examined her face for a moment, her chin tilted upwards as though appealing for that one thing only he could give. But this was something not even Bond could do.

"I think not, my darling," he whispered. "Six months. Six months. That's how long it takes to get a Z3. Get your own car for Christmas."

When the irresistible forces of demand meet the immovable object of factories working flat out, not even Bond can have the car of his dreams.

If you were thinking of nipping out to the showroom this week to surprise your girlfriend/wife/husband/daughter/son/secret contact with a superb sports car on Christmas morning, forget it. The list of cars you cannot have for Christmas is long . . . and growing ever longer.

The Z3 Bond uses to dash around his latest movie, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, is definitely off the Christmas list. Order today and the first you will see the BMW's pretty American-made bodywork is likely to be in June. Unless you really are determined, and then you will have to pay over the list price for a used motor.

Sellers are demanding premiums up to £4,000 for the meaty 2.9-litre version, although £1,000 over list will get you a P-plated 1.9-litre with a few thousand miles on the clock.

Things are even worse for buyers desperate for Mercedes' "baby" sports car, the SLK. Waiting lists are up to two years and advertisers might seem optimistic setting premiums up to £10,000, but they are making money, such is the degree of demand out there in the marketplace.

The signs that Britain is booming and spending money is in the market for exotic cars. Ring any dealer and they will all tell the same story: there aren't any new cars to be had.

Jaguar XK8: six months' waiting list; Lotus Elise, 18 months before one arrives from the factory in Hethel, Norfolk; any Ferrari, up to two years' wait; MGF, 16 weeks of hoping.

Land Rover put its new Freelander in the showrooms this month and immediately had a list of names on its books that means orders placed today will not be fulfilled this side of Easter. Even the lovable yet venerable Defender — the earthy, rugged old workhorse — has a 10-week order book, such is demand at the moment for almost any niche product.

Each time a manufacturer launches a car, it seems dealers are knocked down in the rush through the showrooms, with customers waving chequebooks, desperate for anything which has even a smidgeon more personality than the family hatchback.

"It is incredible," said one dealer yesterday. "Everybody has a family car or a runabout, but there is such a huge choice of cars these days, people want anything that isn't just the usual boring old hatchback."

And there you are this morning, bereft of ideas with your partner dropping Christmas hints with the subtlety of a sledgehammer. You know, the odd magazine on the sofa with the page carelessly tossed open at the advert for a cool Fiat Barchetta (waiting list five months) or the exaggerated hand-over-mouth excitement when a little Porsche Boxster (more than a year) oozes past.

Do not despair. There are plenty of exotic and glamorous sports cars around, they just come with personalities less Tom Cruise and more Terry-Thomas. Flick through adverts for classic cars and they are all there, glorious, gorgeous — and a hell of a lot cheaper than new metal.

So you can't get hold of Bond's BMW, then forget it and go for a real Bond car, a beautiful Aston Martin. An authentic DB5 could cost the price of three Z3s but a lookalike DB6 could be had for around £25,000 — and, be honest, the neighbours will never know the difference.

Or go for a thoroughbred English classic, a cute TR3 is not going to break the bank or what is probably still the best-selling British sports car on the market: the MGB. Ignore pretentious anorak collector's hype about only owning a model with chrome bumpers (the original design). Rubber bumpered MGBs are plentiful, cheap (around £5,000 will do nicely) and look as good as any new car.

Even a Jaguar E-type — definitive, still fast and still the most beautiful of sportsters — will turn up in classic showrooms at £25,000, even less sometimes.

Just make sure your classic has as much paperwork as you can get hold of and get the car checked over for rot which can be covered up by experts and end up causing you lots of New Year heartache. Mechanically, the car is likely to be quite simple, and even a smoky engine can be replaced or repaired at a fraction of the cost of a modern car.

One other thing: if you choose a classic, chances are that for relatively little money, you can push the boat out — or in the case of one classic this week, a remarkable Lagonda that looks like a boat.

The William Towns-designed Lagonda was Aston Martin's wonderful folly. With styling by *Thunderbirds* and interiors by Leatherworld, the Lagonda looks so fantastically daft, it has created its own little niche in the world of motoring. And this week, there was one advertised in *Classic Car Weekly*, a 1981 model in pearl white with sumptuous grey interior for . . . £12,950. That's about the price of a Ford Fiesta Ghia.

For that you get a car that will turn every head in the multi-storey and have kids falling off their bikes as their jaws drop and they gape at its barge-like bonnet nosing through the traffic. Bond's BMW could never match it.

Bargains from a small world

Model gifts for big boys

Even the most exotic modes of transport can be a bargain . . . just so long as you are not expecting to go anywhere. *There is a* gorgeous Bugatti up for auction just waiting to put a smile on the face of its new owner this Christmas. Price: between £4,000 and £8,000, only one owner and absolutely no mileage at all, *Kevin Eason writes*.

Except that this superb sports car is a half-scale model created by engineer Brian *Lewis, now* believed to be living in the United States.

The Bugatti Type 59 replica heads a list of 260 toys being auctioned on Wednesday at the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel in London's Knightsbridge by Brooks. But don't take the kids, because these are toys for the boys who never grew up and have some of the mortgage money to spend on a Christmas treat.

There are trains, boats and cars galore, from the exotic to the rare and including the sorts of toys which once stopped entire families from eating on time as the dining table was turned into an extension of Railtrack and covered by scaled-down engineering work.

The names of Triang, Hornby and Dinky loom large in the catalogue, triggering memories for a generation brought up on toys chunky and beautifully made and which didn't owe any allegiance to the dreaded television screen or computer keyboard. All much more tempting under the tree than another brown sweater and slippers from Auntie Madge.

Like the Bugatti, which took Lewis around 1,500 hours to build after studying factory drawings and consulting the the Bugatti Trust to ensure its incredible accuracy.

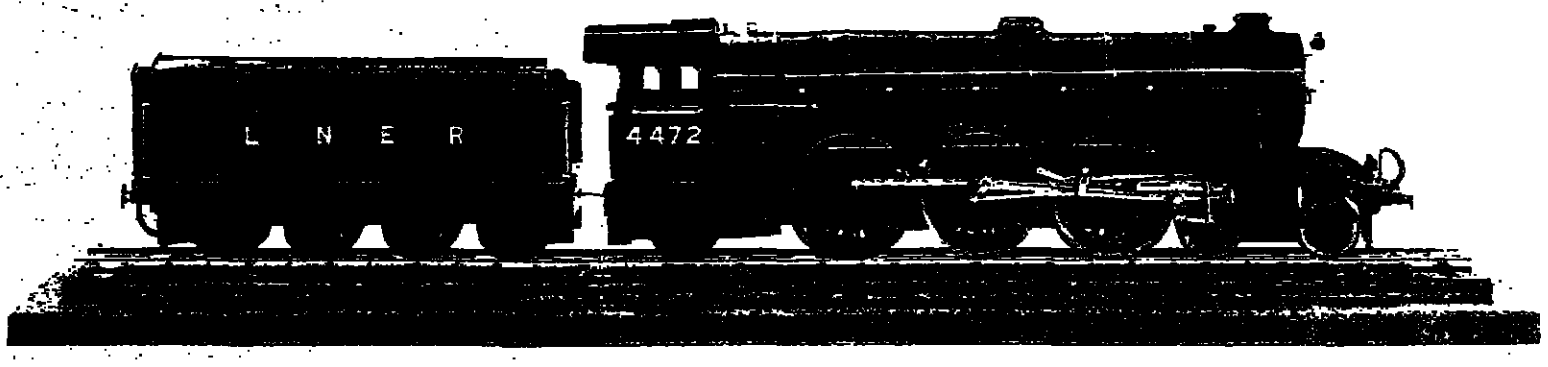
He is thought to have made *the car, powered by a 24-volt* electric motor and dry cell batteries, for his son. Perhaps he thought it too pretty for a child; in any event, it is a star attraction and should encourage some lively bidding from enthusiasts with an empty space in the display cabinet.

As will the gorgeous 4-6-2 Flying Scotsman steam engine made by Bassett-Lowke. Powered by a 20-volt DC motor, Brooks thinks the wonderful locomotive and tender, in the green livery of the London and North Eastern Railway, was made in 1936 as part of a small batch and could fetch as much as £3,500.

For the armchair matelot, there is a lovely Parisian riverboat, called La Sirêne by Maltete et Parents. The clockwork model, made around 1900, is only 75 centimetres long but could be worth £8,000 due to its rarity.

But those who never quite grew up will be pressing their noses up against the metaphorical window pane to choose from an array of Dinkys and tinplate toys: cars, trucks, trains, fire engines, buses, road sweepers, snowploughs, car transporters: there are clockwork and electric toys, steam trains and Pullman coaches and even two Meccano sets, including a number 10 in wooden box complete with trays (£350). And there is a collection of wonderful shunters — tank engines for those whose memories stretch beyond Thomas and his railway chums — in the liveries of almost every pre-nationalisation rail company you could think of, being sold by Allen Levy, one of Britain's top collectors.

But my eye was stirred by a little working display model of a Hornby 0-4-0 locomotive in LNER livery still with its bright red box and clockwork key. Asking price is likely to be around £250 though, so Mrs Eason might have to go without a satsuma in her Christmas stocking this year if the man of the house is to have any fun. It is the perfect pre-Christmas sale of everything for the average 10-year-old . . . going on 40.



Bassett-Lowke's 4-6-2 Flying Scotsman model steam engine in LNER livery, made in 1936 as part of a small batch, which could fetch as much as £3,500

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97 P	E200 Classic Green Black/Black Cloth, Auto, A/C	£26,950
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97 P	E200 Elegance Estate Tourmaline/Grey Clth, Auto, 7 Sts	£29,950
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94 M	E220 Estate Almandine/Black Cloth, Auto, 7 Seats, CAR	£20,950
96 N	E230 Classic Blue/Grey Cloth, Auto, A/C, CAR	£26,950
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95 M	C200 Elegance Rosewood/Mush Cloth, Auto, ESR 31T	£18,450
97 P	C200 Elegance Vivanite/Grey Cloth, Auto, AC, EW 16T	£22,950
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96 N	E230 Elegance B.Silver/Grey Cloth, Auto, AC, EW 21T	£26,450
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97 P E320 Elegance V6 Tourmaline Green with Grey Cloth, 5 Speed Auto, Electric Windows, Cruise, Air Con, HLWW, Elec. Front Seats, 10 Hole Alloy Wheels, Rad/Cass, 7,750 miles £39,950

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95 N S500 Limo Brilliant Silver with Black Leather, Automatic, Climate, Rear Blind, Elec.Sts, 8 Hole Alloys, 1 Owner £44,000

95 N S500 Limo Azurite Blue with Mushroom Leather, Automatic, Climate Control, Elec.Front Seats, 17,000 miles £46,000

96 P S500 Limo Green Black with Grey Leather, 5 Speed Automatic, Climate Control, Closing Aids, RTS, Elec. Front & Rear Seats, Rear Blind, Radio Cassette CD £57,000

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96 P E230 Elegance Tourmaline Green with Beige Cloth, Automatic, Electric Sunroof & Windows, Cruise Control £28,000

97 P E230 Elegance Green Black with Grey Cloth, 5 Speed Automatic, Air Conditioning, Alloys, Alarm £29,000

95 N E220 Estate (W124) Smoke Silver with Mushroom Cloth, Automatic, Elec Sunroof and Windows, ABS, Airbag £21,000

97 N E230 Elegance Est. Aqua Blue with Blue Cloth, 5 Speed Automatic, Air Con, Rear Facing Seat, Airbags £33,000

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95N	C180 Eleg Auto Almandine, cloth, 8h, music	11T	£19,995
95M	C220 Eleg Tourmaline, cloth, air con, cd	19T	£21,995
97P	E200 Eleg Auto Alexandra, cloth A/c, cd,gsr	7T	£28,495
94L	E220 Coupe Blue,black grey hide, 8 Hole	31T	£24,995
97P	E230 Classic Auto Green/blk, cloth, alloys, cd	8T	£26,495
97P	E230 Eleg Auto G/black, grey hide, air con	14T	£31,995
97P	E230 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mush cloth, a/c	11T	£31,995
96P	E230 Est Eleg Auto Grn blk, a/c, rls	12T	£33,995
97P	E230 Est Avant Silver, cloth, climate, rls	13T	£35,995
96P	E280 Avant Green black, hide, a/c,gsr	9T	£35,495
96P	E280 Eleg Auto Azurite, grey hide, air con	12T	£33,995
97P	E280 Eleg V6 Azurite, hide, air con	5T	£37,995
97P	E280 Avant V6 Amazon, hide, air con, 3rtr, a/c	5T	£38,995
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97P	E300TD Est Eleg Aqua, hide, alsm, rls, a/c	11T	£38,995
95M	SL500 Tourmaline, mushroom, clm, r/c, 8h	20T	£55,995
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97P E320 V6 Total spec, Met, hide	10T	£44,995
97P V230 Trend Auto Air, hide, mb/st	9T	£25,995
95M SL280 Met, hide, r.seat, 8h	36T	£44,995
95N SL320 Met, hide, clm, 8h, r/st	23T	£53,995
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95N	C220D Elegance Auto kl, alloys, met, r/st	18T	£24,995
94M	C220 Elegance Auto esr, r/st	38T	£21,495
93L	C250D Elegance Auto hide, alloys	19T	£20,995
92K	E230 Auto, met, air, ww,r/st	43T	£16,995
94M	C280 Sport Auto met, olg, esr, r/st	53T	£21,995
97R	C280 Eleg Auto met, hide, ehls,17" AMG	1T	£P.O.A.
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95M	E36 Coupé Auto, met, hide, air, els, cd,	73T	£29,995
96P	E300D Elegance Auto met, acc, r/st	10T	£32,995
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95M	C180 Classic Auto Midnight/grey, sliw	34T	£15,995
94M	C180 Elegance Auto White/grey, dc	21T	£17,995
97P	C180 Elegance Auto Green black/grey, a/c	15T	£22,995
97P	C200 Classic Auto Red/beige, esr	15T	£19,995
95N	C200 Sport Man White, cloth, a/c	29T	£21,995
96N	C220 Diesel Elegance Man, Azurite/grey,blww	25T	£20,995
95N	E200 Auto Blue Black, esr, ew, ww, dc,	46T	£18,995
94M	C250 Diesel Elegance Azurite/hide aircon aw	28T	£20,995
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93L	E200T Smoke silver/cream cloth, dc, esr	27T	£22,995
96N	E200 Auto Avantgarde black/black cloth, a/c	49T	£24,995
96N	E200 Elegance Auto Azurite/blue, dc	23T	£25,995
95N	E220T Auto Ruby Red/grey cloth, dc, cc	21T	£28,995
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97P	C200 Eleg Auto Green black, grey cloth, a/c	7T	£28,995
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97P	C230 Komp Sport Auto Hide, a/c, esr 17" AMG	6T	£35,995
92J	280TE Auto Barolo Red, grey cloth, a/c, eds, esr, BAW	5T	£27,995
97P	E200 Elegance Auto Azurite, grey cloth, esr BAW	13T	£30,995
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95N	355 GTS	Rosso/Crema	6,000 mls	£95,995	£990pm
95N	355 GTS	Rosso/Crema	14,000 mls	£91,995	£960pm
95M	355 GTB	Rosso/Cream	14,000 mls	£87,995	£920pm
94M	355 GTB	Rosso/Crema	23,000 mls	£79,995	£835pm
95N	355 GTB	Yellow/Black	18,000 mls	£82,995	£865pm
93K	512 TR	Rosso/Nero	28,000 mls	£69,995	£730pm
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93L	348 Spider	Rosso/Crema	13,000 mls	£67,995	£710pm
92L	348 Spider	Chiaro/Crema	13,000 mls	£62,995	£655pm
93K	348 TS	Rosso/Crema	20,000 mls	£55,995	£580pm
93K	348 TS	Rosso/Crema	22,000 mls	£54,995	£565pm
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هكذا من الإصل

The bicycle you buy your child for Christmas, for all its high tech and high price, will lack three items of equipment — pump, mudguards and lights

It comes with two wheels. That's it

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

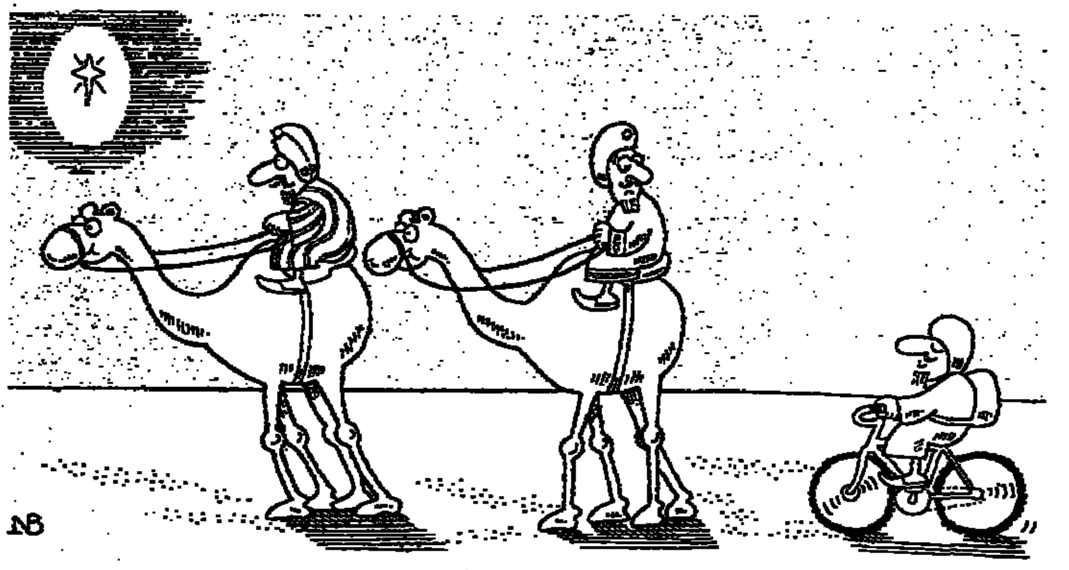
The modern bicycle has a name which dates from 1869, although it had several antecedents, including a French contraption called the *célérifère*, which consisted of two wheels attached to a wooden beam. There were no handlebars: the rider sat on the beam and steered by pushing his feet against the ground.

Not an idea guaranteed to sweep the Teletubbies off the shelves at Christmas, but in 1816 the Germans, always up for improving on anything done by the French, developed the first two-wheeled vehicle with its own steering. This became known as a *draisine*, after the eponymous inventor. Various improvements were developed elsewhere, including a version in England called a hobby horse.

The French got back in the race with the wonderfully-named velocipede, pretty much the father of the modern bike. The velocipede, which swept France in the 1850s, had a frame and wheels made of wood. The tyres were made of iron: it saved people having to pump them up, which in one particular way gave them an advantage over the modern cyclist, who is often expected to fork out a lot of cash for a bike with no pump.

Why, to crystallise all of this into a single question, is bicycle design going backwards? Of course some anorak will now write in to explain that bicyle technology has never been so advanced. Well, I know the materials used are lighter and stronger than ever, and I know that mountain bikes, the Range Rovers of one-wheel drive, look terribly snazzy and are all the rage.

This does not alter the fact that the bicycle you are buying your child for Christmas, for all its high tech and high price, will, unless you take special care — and spend even more money — be parked next to the Christmas tree lacking three items of equipment — a pump, mudguards and lights.



It is a curious fact that in recent years all the safety developments surrounding bicycles have gone into the rider rather than the machine. Few cyclists would be seen out minus a brightly-coloured helmet. They would not dream of venturing on to the roads late in the day without the sort of reflective clothing that could be used to illuminate navigation hazards in the North Sea. Cyclists cannot hold their heads up in polite society unless they have those little plastic reflectors on the back which twinkle like stars when a car headlight is shone on them.

And there is the rub. All of this safety equipment only works when a light is projected from another vehicle. Absolutely nothing that comes as standard equipment with a mountain bike — or with many of the hybrids that look like mountain bikes — offers the cyclist a means of illumination that is independent of other vehicles.

My own bike, a hybrid, looks ultra-modern at first sight, but if you give the thing a few minutes' thought, some of its characteristics are out of the last century. It has no pump and, even worse, nowhere on the frame where a pump can be fixed. There are no mudguards, or lights, there are not even any reflectors. It is, in poor lighting conditions, invisible.

The argument that these bikes are designed for off-road use and therefore have to be devoid of clutter and do not need safety features such as lights is absolute tosh. They are used day to day, at least we are all being encouraged to use them day to day. Yet without extra bits and pieces they are positively lethal.

The *Highway Code* makes it clear that bicyles used at night must have lights and reflectors. That is a legal requirement and in my view manufacturers ought to meet minimum legal requirements by selling bicycles that have lights and reflectors at an inclusive price.

If bicycles are to be encouraged as the modern urban transport, then the manufacturers will have to wise up to the market. In effect, they are being asked to compete with car manufacturers, though I cannot recall hearing of anyone who has driven a four-wheel drive, or any other vehicle, away from a showroom and then had to nip round to the parts department to have it fitted with lights and reflectors.

The Ab Fab way to reach Harvey Nicks

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WHAT IT COSTS

Allstar luxury: as used by Engelbert Humperdinck

YOUR CAR

- The limousine seats 10 people in comfort and can be hired from around £80 for a single journey, to between £500-£600 for a shopping day from Yorkshire to London. Allstar Limousines at Knottingley, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. tel: 01977 607979. Of course, using your own car and filling it up with passengers would be very cheap, but just think of the parking problem.

TRAIN

- The standard second class return rail fare from Huddersfield to London is £48. First class, which is more comparable to the luxury of the limo, would be £160. There are, of course, special offers and the cheapest of these — known as a Fab Four return — is just £49 for four passengers from Wakefield to King's Cross. But these are available in very limited numbers and have to be booked well in advance. The fare from Huddersfield to Wakefield is £2, and an Underground Day Card for the Central Area will cost you £3.20. The train from Huddersfield at 7.32am arrives at King's Cross at 10.22am.

A return at 8pm arrives at 11pm.

BUS

- By far the cheapest way is to take the bus, but it doesn't leave much time for shopping. The National Express service costs just £18 return. The bus leaving Huddersfield at 7.30am gets to Victoria at 12.20pm, but the last one back the same day leaves at 17.30pm, arriving at 22.05pm, so dining out is not on unless you choose to wait for the 23.30pm from Victoria, which gets you back to Huddersfield at 6.35 next morning. You can't leave parcels on the bus while you go to find more presents, and you'd still need to Tube or taxi round town and from the bus station to home.

Lynne Greenwood joins the Huddersfield women who hired an £84,000 stretch limousine for West End shopping in style

Picture a cold, dark, wet morning at Huddersfield railway station, where 10 friends have arranged to meet at 7.30am for a Christmas shopping trip to London. They arrive in ones and twos, dropped off by husbands, partners, parents dragged out of bed for the short drive from homes round and about the West Yorkshire town.

But they are not meeting at the railway station to go and queue at a ticket office and then stand still longer on a draughty platform waiting for a train. The station is simply a convenient point for a rendezvous.

Parked outside in isolated splendour is 30-feet of super stretch limousine, whose interior is white, warm and dry. The women, all twenty- and thirty-somethings, climb in through a rear door opened courteously by Alex Gibb, their driver for the day, smart in a suit, but who draws the line at "poncy chauffeur's gear".

What he's driving is seriously upmarket, a Lincoln Town car Royal Coach superstretch limousine, custom-built in Los Angeles, with an £84,000 price tag. Little Richard, Roberta Flack, Ray Charles, Fats Domino and Engelbert Humperdinck have all used them on British tours.

Powered by a 4.6-litre, 210bhp V8 engine, it seats 10 in the rear and averages 14mpg on the motorway, 9 around town. It has leather upholstery, air conditioning, mirrored ceilings with fibre optic lighting, two TVs, a video, a £13,000 stereo system and cocktail bar.

At 7.45am the car pulls away for a shopping trip with style followed by dinner at a fashionable restaurant and the whole day out — presents and dinner apart — will cost each participant just £5 more than the standard second class return rail fare. Organised by Joanne Whiteley and Sarah Binks, tax inspectors in the same office, the £530 deal — £53 each — includes door-to-door shopping in London and a taxi home for everyone.

"We were working overtime back in August, we had a hangover, and decided to book the limo to cheer ourselves up," says Sarah, 32, mother of a three-year-old daughter. "It's a great way to go shopping — you don't need a taxi or a Tube, there's somewhere to leave your bags and you're delivered home to the door."

The darkened windows of the custom-built limousine create a tantalising illusion of celebrity status, both inside and out. So while curious passengers in other cars on the M1 can only stare, wave and speculate on its cargo, the limo ladies uncork the Buck's Fizz, unwrap the fresh croissants and relax first to the stereo sound of George Michael and then with *Grease* on video.

With one half-hour break at the motorway services for coffee and a cigarette — smoking is not allowed in the car for fear of an expensive upholstery burn — the journey to central London takes three and three-quarter hours.

Alex, who admits "this is better than delivering a truck-load of tomatoes", enjoys the London run and prides himself on getting the measure of his passengers quickly and adapting his humour accordingly. Boxer Prince Naseem and Premiership footballers Carlton Palmer and Lee Sharpe are among the people he drives.

"I treat everyone the same as far as being polite is concerned," he says. "Most of them are great and I like to have a laugh with them."

An early wisecrack that he'll tell the curious that his passengers are "winners of the readers' wives contest in *Fiesta* magazine" prompts a laugh which tells Alex he's on safe ground. "Some of the hen nights we do can get a bit wild — they get the music whacked up in here and have a party. I see and hear all sorts, but I never pass it on."

> 'I see and hear all sorts, but never pass it on'

The journey down is fuelled by pickings from £30 worth of food bought the previous day. The girl talk was all of presents and personal shopping and who was doing what or going where for Christmas and the new year. In London, where outsiders peer in and even pose for a hurried snap with the limo, there are screams of laughter as more than one camera is pointed at the open door as the friends climb out. "We could be a double dose of Spice Girls," quips somebody.

Alex drops the women in Hanover Square, handy for both Oxford Street and Regent Street, and arranges to be back in two hours. While he sets off in search of a Jetwash, anxious to return with a gleaming white car, the shoppers head off for their first foray.

At 1.30pm Alex is waiting ready to help load the first armfuls of gifts into the limo's enormous boot. He's keen to know their plans for the next part of the trip. After some discussion, the women — solicitor, hairdresser, medical secretary, cashier, psychiatric nurse, swimming instructor, care worker, accounts assistant and the two tax inspectors — decide on Knightsbridge next for Harrods and Harvey Nicks.

Parking should be a problem, but limos, it seems, may venture where normal cars would not dare to halt. Alex manoeuvres round several London squares before pulling into a bus lay-by directly opposite Harrods. The women arrange to be back at 5.30pm for the drive to their dinner date at Planet Hollywood; Alex finds a quiet street where he can watch a video and sleep for an hour.

Now the serious shopping starts. Solicitor Helen O'Hara, who knows London better than most of the rest after spending four years at university there, and her sister, Kathryn, want presents for their father, "the man who has everything". Others are searching for gifts for husbands, parents and grandmas as well as clothes shopping for themselves.

Laden with carriers, they are back in the car at 5.30pm for Planet Hollywood where "jump-the-queue" tickets obtained in advance mean there's not too long to wait and at 8.30pm it's home time. "It's so good to be able to take my boots off and start on the gin and tonics!" said Joanne.

On the way home the contents of some carriers are displayed for approval, some gifts for children some dresses and shoes for the shoppers themselves.

With *Father of the Bride 2* showing on the video, some doze in the warmth and comfort of the limousine's interior. By midnight most of the women are back home, all determined to repeat the trip for a birthday, hen night . . . or another day's shopping.

Thoughtful developments

Vaughan Freeman

on the new Passat

Melted chocolates is a thing of the past in VW's latest contribution to motoring luxury — an air-conditioned glovebox. No longer need car occupants in VW's all-new turbodiesel Passat estate suffer from molten bars on the motorway. The neat touch, like a third sun visor that fills that irritating dazzling gap betweeen the driver and passenger visors, shows VW has really thought about this car.

The main attraction, however — along with an 11-year bodywork warranty — is a direct injection diesel engine which the German manufacturer claims is the most efficient engine ever in a car. That translates into fuel consumption of more than 50mpg overall and almost 63mpg out of town, along with a top speed of 118mph.

The Passat estate looks and feels less like a mass produced VW car, and more like a product from the exclusive Audi arm of the company empire.

In the rear, a sculpted roof gives ample head room for passengers over 6ft tall. An added bonus for those prepared to pay the optional £103 is a third middle three-point lap and chest seatbelt. Safety is enhanced by anti-lock brakes and dual airbags as standard, and side airbags as a £200 option.

The power steering is very light (and will be too light for some), although it comes in handy on a car that is 77mm longer, 25mm wider and 50mm taller than the one it replaces, resulting in an increased rear space totalling 56.5 cubic feet with the rear seat folded.

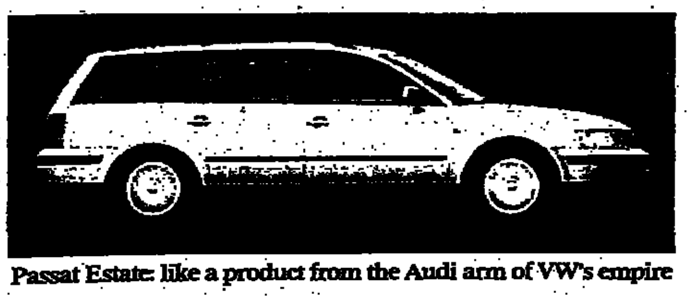
Also very light is the five-speed manual gearchange. The Passat's diesel engine is well insulated, and at idle and low speed it is quiet. When pushed, although it does not get noisy, there is a low rumble and a feeling that this is a less smooth unit than you would expect in an equivalent petrol car.

The death knell for estate cars was said to have been sounded by the people movers, cars such as the Renault Espace and Ford Galaxy. Petrol fans were also forecasting the demise of diesels as successive reports found fault with emissions.

The Passat turbodiesel estate proves them wrong on all counts. With the optional fifth three-point seatbelt, it is a fine family-sized car and features an exceptional engine that is smooth, economical, powerful and very clean.

As if to prove the point: those seeking a reasonable sized diesel-powered estate are almost spoilt for choice in this sector. Rivals include the 1.8-litre Ford Mondeo turbodiesel Ghia (£18,500), Vauxhall's 2-litre TDi Vectra GLS (£19,000), and the Renault Laguna 2.2 td RT (£18,000).

For many though, the VW engine will make the decision for them. Emissions of harmful gases are almost zero, and a catalytic converter, still rare on diesels, removes visible smoke and halves emissions of particulates.



Passat Estate: like a product from the Audi arm of VW's empire

PASSAT ESTATE

Engine: 1.9-litre direct injection turbodiesel producing 110bhp at 4,150rpm, through five-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: 0-60mph in 12 secs, top speed 110mph.

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

Cycle of time puts bikes in the shop again

What used to be a car showroom is now a unique centre for two wheels. **Vaughan Freeman** reports

TOM PINNIE

Alan Bate, left, and Simon O'Brien: "We are desperate to prove that you can run a commercial enterprise but still benefit the environment"

From former car dealership to futuristic cycle shop/cafe/fitness centre must be the ultimate example of just how quickly attitudes are changing towards personal transport.

A century ago the cycle and the horse were king; the car all but killed both off. Now as cycling stages a remarkable comeback while politicians and individuals seek a way out of interminable traffic jams, the Liverpool Cycle Centre provides a neat metaphor for shifting transport trends.

Once a car showroom, the centre is not just about selling puncture repair kits, cheap bikes for Christmas and spare inner tubes. The aim is less about selling cycles, more about selling cycling.

Partners Alan Bate and Simon O'Brien want cycling made easier, to promote its obvious advantages over the car, especially in crowded city centres. Not just to publicise its health aspects, but to take practical steps so people see the advantages of cycling rather than driving to work.

The centre's Hub Café, features light fittings made from cycle forks, while tables and chairs are built out of cycle frames and drop handlebars. Even the salt and pepper pots are made from wheel hubs.

The theory of cycling, rather than motoring, as an alternative way of life, turns to practice with the centre's free "bike and go" service for commuters. Office workers simply cycle to the centre, lock up their bikes there in secure storage, shower and change, then head for work in the office blocks a few minutes' walk away.

As part of the centre's "green" packaging, ecologically-friendly solar heating panels supply two-thirds of the hot water, and low energy lighting illuminates the huge wrought-iron cycle wheels that feature in one wall.

Fitness checks are available to local workers who can have their heart rates and aerobic fitness levels assessed while pedalling static cycle machines in the velogym, then get advice on how to improve their physical stamina.

The latest venture is a health and fitness "hit squad", which visits businesses, assesses stress levels among staff and draws up a cycle-friendly employer action plan for the company. The plan outlines ways in which the company can get its workers to travel more efficiently — and more healthily — thus reducing stress levels and improving performance at work. They sell bikes as well.

Bate, a former full-time racing cyclist, says: "We live for cycling. It is in our blood. Our centre is totally different. It's not just about making money, we are desperate to prove that you can run a commercial enterprise but still benefit the environment.

"Having said that, we do believe the centre has a long-term future. We are a shop, a gym, a fitness centre. We offer various services, including free shower and changing facilities, and the cycle-friendly employer scheme."

Actor and former *Brookside* star O'Brien may not share Bate's cycling ability, but does share his enthusiasm: "I pedal everywhere nice and slow. I was in Greenpeace years ago but felt a bit of a hypocrite driving around in a GTi.

"So I sold the car, bought a bike, and *my* life has improved so much since. Now I just want to try to convince others to try it, so they will see what difference it can make to their lives."

Bate particularly relishes the irony that their environmentally-friendly cycle shop is housed in a building that was a car saleroom for 40 years, especially as the circle has now turned completely: "Before cars were sold here it was a bike shop, and there is still a shaft running through the middle of the building where butchers' and bakers' bikes were hauled up to the service workshop."

So keen are the two to promote not just cycling, but Britain's sporting prowess on two wheels, that they are well advanced with plans for an all-British cycling team. The aim is to take advantage of the gigantic publicity cycling seems to attract everywhere in the world — except Britain.

"It is huge in Europe and we want to form a British professional team to take on the best in the world," says Bate. "The Brits have been more successful internationally in cycling than in any other sport in recent years, and our team includes at least four riders who have been selected for the Commonwealth Games in 1998."

Heart rate and aerobic check in the centre's velogym

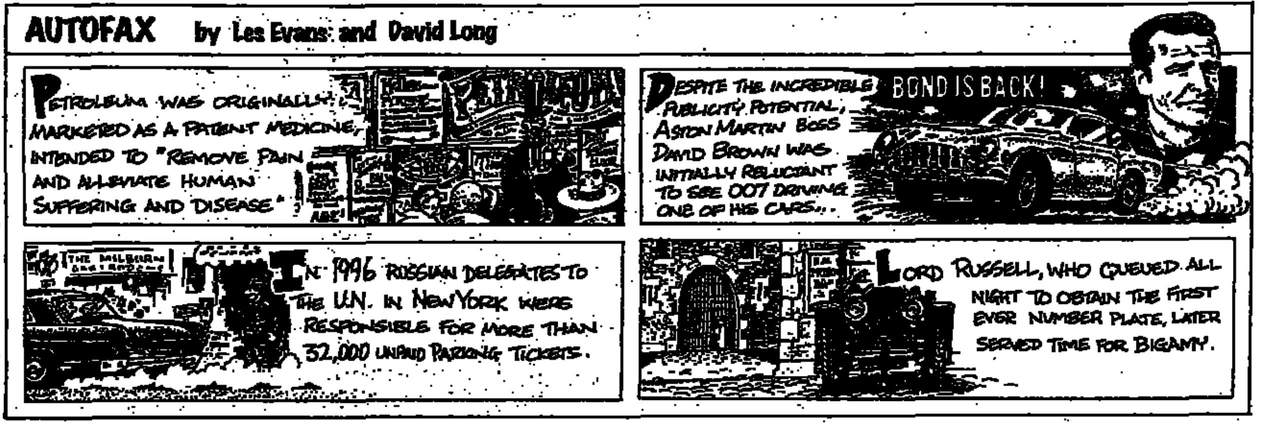
Yet even here Bate is not prepared to sacrifice ethics for practicality: "We want sponsors sure, but we would never, ever accept sponsorship from a tobacco company, no matter how much they offered us."

Can such ideals square with the harsh realities of a running a commercial shop? Bate thinks so: "We plan to be here for the long term. Cycling makes sense. Just look at how much space and room any shop like ours loses if they have to cater for customer parking and looking after the cars of their staff.

"We are optimistic about the future for cycling as transport, but we need to promote it as a sport as well, to focus attention on a cheap and healthy means of getting around."

For further information, contact the centre on 0151-708 8819.

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long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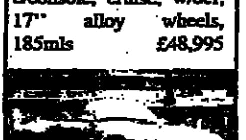

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Preetee Jhamna
(Arthur Andersen) Cambridge

Fifth Place in the Order of Merit and the Cassleton Elliott Prize and the Howitt Prize for the Paper on Business Planning and Finance
Samuel James Maddrell
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Sixth Place in the Order of Merit and the Arthur Swinson Prize
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Abigail R. London: Ab Rahman S. London: Adair G S. Leeds: Adamson A J. Bradford: Adler D M E. London: Adlington D J. London: Adnett R J. Manchester: Aggarwal S. London: Agnihotri I. London: Ahmad A. London: Ahmad H. London: Ahmed K K. London: Ainscough J M. London: Aitken D. Hayes: Akdag M. Sidcup: Akhtar A. London: Albert-Richards K. London: Alder J F. London: Aldred P. Derby: Alexander J S. Lincoln: Alfredson A O. London: Allan V C. London: Allcock S G A. Coventry: Allen J E. Bradford: Allies C J. Macclesfield: Allis E J. London: Allix S R. London: Alton J P P. London: Anastasiou T. Nicosia: Anastassiou S. Nicosia: Anayiotos C. Nicosia: Andrews E L. Birmingham: Anstead J R. London: Antao V M. London: Appiah A A. London: Appleby M J. London: Arbib J A. London: Archbutt J L. London: Archer R T E. Southampton: Ardouin J M. London: Argyle J A. Manchester: Armstrong R. Warrington: Ashby C L. London: Ashton J. London: Ashwell A. Leeds: Assman M A. Jersey: Athenodorou G. Limassol: Atherton S J. London: Atkinson E M. Birmingham: Atkinson K. Douglas: Atkinson S D. Reading: Au K V. London: Awan Z. London: Ayling J R. Birmingham: Ayling K J. London: Aylward V C. Bristol: Ayrton M N. Leeds

Baarli B. Richmond: Backman K E. London: Bagnall A L. London: Bahemia M R A. London: Bailey D M. Barnoldswick: Bailey P. Southend-on-Sea: Bailey P A. Manchester: Bain M. Manchester: Baker J S. London: Baker N J. Birmingham: Baker V P. Plymouth: Balban N. Cardiff: Balch C S. London: Baldwin K J. Leatherhead: Baldwin R P. London: Ballantyne A J M. Manchester: Bannister K A. London: Banton M R. Cheltenham: Barker D. London: Barker E P. Windsor: Barlow K A. Bristol: Barnes C L. London: Barnes N J. London: Barrett S. Reading: Bashir S. Leeds; Basma A J. Bristol; Bates C A. Bristol: Bath C. Reading: Batten S J. Plymouth: Batty M J. Leeds: Baverstock G J. Croydon: Baxter D A. Manchester: Baylis C E. London: Beard J D. Orpington: Beattie B E. Newcastle: Beauchamp T D. London: Beaumont H M. Milton Keynes: Beckett M A. Hull: Bedingfield H C. London: Beecher J. Plymouth: Beh M N. London: Bekisz D. Manchester: Bell A J. Grimsby: Bell C J. Sheffield: Bell J L T. London: Bell J M. Manchester: Bell R D. London: Bellis N J M. London: Belsham C J. Leeds: Bence D E. Canterbury: Benford M J. Nottingham: Berenblut B. London: Berne P M. Oldham: Berry J L. Leicester: Berry M I J. London: Best R P A. Gosport: Betjemann L E. Leicester: Betts M B. Manchester: Bevan C. Norwich: Bevan T J. London: Beynon W D C. Plymouth: Bhatnagar M. London: Bhojani V. Edgware: Bickerton E C. London: Biggs C P. London: Biggs R H. Birmingham: Billups C. Sheffield: Bingham J. Leeds: Bingham R. Gloucester: Bird R A. London: Birkbeck P M. Lancaster: Birkenhead P. Birmingham: Black S J. Bradford: Blackwell N A. Uxbridge: Blamey S L. Jersey: Bland J L. London: Blewitt A. London: Bloomfield L A. Bristol: Bloxham K L. Uxbridge: Bober L J C. London: Boden J. Gloucester: Boden M R. Preston: Bolwell M J. Bedford: Bonner P M. Leeds: Booth M R. Nottingham: Booth V L. London: Bos S M. London: Bostock E M. London: Bowskill D J. Bristol: Bracey M N. London: Breaks J M. London: Brenchley D E. London: Brew A J. London: Brickley K E. Banstead: Brierly A S. London: Bright H. Bedford: Brimble J. London: Brind D L. Newcastle upon Tyne: Britton D J. Rustington: Broadbent H L. Waltham Cross: Broadway T K. Southampton: Brooke G R C. London: Brookes N D. Lewes: Brooks N J. London: Broom S C. Banbury: Brough V R. London: Brown A C G. London: Brown A M. London: Brown C S. London: Brown E L J. London: Brown H. Bristol: Brown J. Birmingham: Brown P C L. London: Brown Sarah (1879). London: Brown S C. London: Brownlee W J. Reading: Brugere J G C. London: Bruten-Smolyanoff C M. Cardiff: Bruton S L. London: Buchanan P J. Jersey: Buck R. Leicester: Buckett A C. Basingstoke: Buckley C J. London: Buckley I R W. London: Budworth A T. Southampton: Bullock J E M. London: Bumstead I V. Croydon: Bunch M E. London: Bunting D J. London: Burbidge J E. Tunbridge Wells: Burchett P I. Manchester: Burdon-Cooper S L. London: Burgess S R. Manchester: Burgin N. Leeds: Burgoyne J E. Bristol: Burne A C. Norwich: Burnell C. Southampton: Burnham G M. London: Burns A R. Crawley: Burnton A R. London: Burridge H J. London: Bursey S E. Southampton: Burton A J F. London: Burton G. Leeds: Burton S. London: Butler E M. London: Butler N A. Birmingham: Butler R D. London: Byrne L A. London

Caddy L J. Newcastle: Cade M. Leeds: Cairns T J. London: Caldon D M. London: Callaghan D P. London: Callow K E. Reading: Calvert A. Leeds: Campbell A B. Bristol: Campbell H J. London: Campbell J M S. Bristol: Campbell N. York: Capewell P A. Leeds: Carbuhn C. London: Carpenter A C. : Carton M L. London: Carver B L. London: Cash J M. Slough: Cassing N A. Woking: Casterton J. London: Castillo-Alonso E N C. Crawley: Cathcart D I. London: Chalcraft J E. Sheffield: Chalcraft S M. London: Chamberlain R B. London: Chambers V J. Nottingham: Chan C S W. London Chan J M N. Kuala Lumpur: Chantrill S. Nottingham: Chapman B W. Caterham: Chapman D A. Great Yarmouth: Chapman J A. Bourne End: Chapman P J. London: Chapman T. Norwich: Chatterjee R A. London: Cheema R S. London: Cheetham D A. Manchester: Cheung J D. Bromley: Chew D R. Manchester: Cheyney J. Farnham: Childs K J. Leeds: Chissell N. London: Cholerton L J. Ewell: Christodoulou G A. London: Christodoulou N. Larnaca: Christy N. London: Chua W. London: Chudley L. London: Church R J. Birmingham: Clague S F. London: Clark A F. London: Clark C D. St Albans: Clark E. Luton: Clark J J. London: Clarke D J. London: Clarke J M. Cannock: Clarke P. Sheffield: Clarke R D. London: Clarke S. St Albans: Clarke T L. London: Clarkson H L. London: Clayden I. London: Clayton C L. London: Clayton J M. Reading: Cleary K J. Southampton: Clement A. Reading: Clifford G. Winchester: Clifton W. Leeds: Clutton J R. St Albans: Cobb S A. London: Cocker J E. Sheffield: Colegate N L. St Albans: Coles D P. London: Collenette A M. Southampton: Collenette M J. Guernsey: Collier A P. London: Collier H. London: Collier S E. Bristol: Collins S E. Chippenham: Collins S A. Leeds: Collinson M. London: Collman J D. London: Comley P A. Norwich: Connell J P. Scunthorpe: Constable N R. London: Conway A M. London: Cook A C. London: Cook B S. Walton-On-Thames: Cook D S. London: Cook I A. Douglas: Cook J D. Nottingham: Cooper D J. Cardiff: Cooper Dean (2674). Leeds: Cooperman M. London: Copley P D. Leeds: Corbett S A J. Nottingham: Cormack Andrew (2107). London: Costella S. Harrow: Costigan C E. Stockport: Coultan R. Birmingham: Court M J. Dudley: Courtis C M. London: Cousins R A. Southampton: Coventry S E. London: Cowan B E. London: Cowan C R. London: Cowin C B P. London: Cowman L A. Manchester: Cox R J H. London: Craig E G. Manchester: Crees M P. Peterborough: Critchley A M. Liverpool: Croft S. Manchester: Cromar R N. Chesterfield: Crook P. Liverpool: Croom P G. Birmingham: Cropper S M. Liverpool

Crossfield J J. London

Croston M L. London: Crouch S D. London: Croxson A J. London: Cullers J L. Southampton: Culley J. Manchester: Cummings J T. Bracknell: Cunliffe J P. Walton-On-Thames: Cunniffe J. London: Cunningham D C M. London: Cunningham P J. Manchester

Da Cruz N R I. Manchester: Dalal M F. Harrow: Dallow J. West Bromwich: Dalziel N J. Birmingham: Darcy-Irvine A L. London: Daruwala S. London: Das R L. London: Dattani Pritesh (2082): Davda G P. Southampton: Daveran L G. Nottingham: Davies D P. Newcastle Upon Tyne: Davies I G. Eastleigh: Davies M A P. Swansea: Davies M J. London: Davies S D. Cardiff: Davis Rhiannon Sarah (1934). London: Davis Russell Stewart (1592). London: Davison S J. Hull: Dawes L A. Maidstone: Dawood S. London: Dawson C L. London: Dawson S. Leeds: Day P M. London: Day S L. Leeds: Day S M. London: Day W A. Southampton: Dean C L. Manchester: Dean H O. Crawley: De'Ath P. Bristol: Deex A L. Manchester: Delicata C. Swindon: Desai R. London: Desforges M J G. Guernsey: Devine M J. St Albans: Dewar J A. Chelmsford: Dewar T D G. Leeds: Dhillon S S. Twickenham: Didier C. London: Diggle S. Accrington: Dillon L. London: Dillon L J. Nottingham: Din B N. London: Dingle C. London: Diola C. London: Diprose M N. Nottingham: Dirkx A C. Nottingham: Divall K S. Manchester: Dixon C L. London: Dixon P J. Bristol: Dodd A G. Manchester: Dodd J M. Manchester: Dodds N R. Brighton: Doe J N J. London: Doherty M P. Liverpool: Donaldson S. London: Douglas S. Harrogate: Dowle K L. London: Down C J A. London: Downs A J. Chesterfield: Drake J. Birmingham: Dring D J. Guildford: Driscoll J D. Bristol: Drizen N S. London: Duckworth J P. London: Duckworth M R H. Birmingham: Duffield P. Leeds: Duffy N J. Leeds: Dugdale C H. Reading: Duggal S. London: Dumpleton A W. London: Dunkel A W. Leeds: Dunkin C. London: Dunlop K. London: Durrance S R. London: Dyson C L. Leeds

Eagle N D. Birmingham: Eagling S J. Norwich: Earl V E. London: Easton G A. Bath: Easton K E. Croydon: Eaton B S. London: Eburne V C. London: Echeverria-Valda F T. London: Eckersley R J M. St Albans: Ecob G D. Birmingham: Eden S L. Birmingham: Edgar D F. Leeds: Edmonds A J. Salisbury: Edmondson C. Stafford: Edwards J C. Southampton: Edwards N W J. London: Efeyini E O. London: Egan C J. Leeds: Elkin E C. Croydon: Ellicott D L. Nottingham: Elliot W I. Bradford: Elliott R J L. London: Ellis P K. Leeds: Ellis T M. Chorley: Else R V. London: English E A. Leeds: Ennis S L. Southend-On-Sea: Epstein S D. Hertford: Erwin S. Oxford: Etherden L M. Swansea: Evans A J. Nantwich: Evans J A. Bristol: Evans J R F. Birmingham: Evans L A. Liverpool: Evans M. Birmingham: Evans S E. Manchester: Evans W E F. Bristol: Evison L. London: Ewing M C. Manchester

Farooq A. Windsor: Farrell S L. Warrington: Fasouliotis A. Limassol: Fau L. London: Faulkner M J. Crawley: Faure A O. Reading: Fearn A K. London: Fenton M. Scunthorpe: Fernandes N M. London: Fernando H P. London: Findlay-Coulson T P. London: Fish J M. London: Fitch M S. Liverpool: Fitz-Gerald P J. Milton Keynes: Flackett D A. London: Flaherty J P. London: Flouquet M A. London: Flowers B W. Birmingham: Flynn J. Newcastle upon Tyne: Ford S M. London: Foreman A M. Norwich: Forman B R. Reading: Forster R. Manchester: Foster H C. Birmingham: Foster L C. Manchester: Foster S J. Manchester: Fowler A M. London: Fox M S E. Manchester: Fradin T. London: Frankish M N. Preston: Franks M. Birmingham: Fraser K E. London: Freeman M G. Plymouth: Freeman R W. Bristol: Frew E. London: Froggatt L K. Sheffield: Frusher K E. Bedford: Funke C. Reading: Furnell N M. London

Gale B J. London: Gallant L A J. Horsham: Gallop T D. Cambridge: Gardner M N. London: Gardner S M. London: Garner G E. Wembley: Garnett C L. London: Garrett F M. Uxbridge: Garrod D R. London: Garvey V E. Newcastle upon Tyne: Garwood F S. Rochford: Gavin D M. London: Gellman T H. London: George A D. Aylesbury: Georgiades G. Strovolos: Ghumra I. Leicester: Gibson F. Birmingham: Giddings M J. Birmingham: Gidney L C. London: Gilbert C. Leicester: Giles A R. London: Gill M. Sutton: Gill S. Snodland: Gillard A J. London: Gillard C L. Plymouth: Gilmartin L S. London: Gilmore L. London: Given C M. Chorley: Gleadall J A S. Leeds: Glenday D A. London: Glennon L A. Manchester: Goel R. London: Goh L. Bristol: Golding R J. Bristol: Goodwin A E. Birmingham: Gordon A H. Plymouth: Gordon G C. London: Gordon J B. St Albans: Gordon-Stewart A J. London: Gosal P K. London: Gosden A. Maidenhead: Gosling C L. Manchester: Gough S. Birmingham: Gould V A. Windsor: Gowers P J. London: Grace H. London: Graham J A. Croydon: Grant D A. London: Gray A. Leeds: Gray D H. Sheffield: Gray J M T. London: Green E H. London: Green M B. London: Green V R. London: Greenacre S C. Ipswich: Greene T R E. London: Greenway G E. London: Greenwood G W. Manchester: Greetham C. Hull: Gregg P M. London: Gregoriou A. Nicosia: Gregory J E. London: Grier A J. Holt: Griffiths A G. Jersey: Griffiths H R. Manchester: Grigg A E. London: Grigg E A. Bracknell: Grint K A. London: Groom E A. Maidstone: Grove E J. London: Grove M A. Reading: Groves J R. London: Grundy G E. Manchester: Gujral B. Northampton: Gunn M. Cambridge: Guscott W J. London: Guthrie S L. Birmingham

Haddath C L. Manchester: Haimes K J. London: Halron K J. Jersey: Hale J E. London: Hale M I. Maidstone: Hales D J. London: Hall M R. Watford: Hall N A. Newport: Hall P L. London: Hallward C P. London: Hamed M. Southampton: Hamilton G F. London: Hammond A. Birmingham: Hammond B. London: Hanlon J E. Newcastle upon Tyne: Hannaford S. Waltham Cross: Hannan A. London: Haralambous A. London: Haralambous I. Nicosia: Harding I J. Eastbourne: Harel L R J. London: Hargrave L. Nottingham: Harla B. London: Harman H J. Nottingham: Harrington C M. Swindon: Harrington K E. Southampton: Harris C E. Reading: Harris H J. Preston: Harris S D. St Albans: Harrison N M. London: Harrison S L. London: Hart S J. Reading: Hartley E S. Southampton: Hartley J M. Manchester: Hartley J E. Manchester: Hartnack M D. London: Hartwell C E. Winchester: Hatcher J. London: Hatjantonas G J. Nicosia: Hatton N J. Leeds: Hatwell H V. Norwich: Hauck J E. London: Hawkins S E. Bristol: Heald A P. London: Heap R J. Manchester: Henderson B J. Newcastle upon Tyne: Henderson I A R. Ewell: Henderson J. Birmingham: Henderson T C. Ewell: Henke K. London: Henton C J. London: Herbert D L. Milton Keynes: Herniman J. London: Hernon L. Manchester: Herring M A. Mexborough: Hesketh R J. London: Hetherington E. London: Hewett G S. Cardiff: Hewish D A. London: Hewitt M. London: Hey A D. London: Heywood V L. London: Heyworth K J. Manchester: Hickey B. Southend-on-Sea: Hickman N. London: Hicks M Z. Cambridge: Higginson D. Birmingham Higginson L C. London: Hill J A. Exeter: Hill S A. London: Hillier S C. Croydon: Hills N W. Guildford: Hilsdon C S F. London: Hindle J E. Nottingham: Hindmarsh R C. Nottingham: Hinton T J. Oxford: Hippolyte C E M. London: Hitchcock S J. Manchester: Hitchens N J. Dartford: Hitchmough J. Dudley: Hoare J. Birmingham: Hobley C J S. St Albans: Hobson J E. London: Hocking G B S. Cheltenham: Hodge G D. Cardiff: Hodgetts L J. London: Hoffman A G. London: Holden J A. London: Holden M J. St Albans: Holder N J. Manchester: Holdsworth C A S. London: Hollan A. Manchester: Holland N D. Birmingham: Holland R J. Bury St Edmunds: Hollinghurst C L. London: Holman B S. London: Holmes S. Birmingham: Holmes S C. Rickmansworth: Holmes S J. London: Holt M J. London: Holton M D. Bracknell: Honeyball R I. Newcastle upon Tyne: Hope M S. Ewell: Hopewell J P. London: Hopkin A J. Croydon: Hopkins B T. Coventry: Hopwood E M. London: Horgan S L. London: Hosken G D. London: Hothersall M T. Manchester: Houchen C E. London: Houseman J N. Leeds: Hove T. Manchester: How A L. Watford: Howard S A. London: Howell M J. St Albans: Howells B. Sunderland: Howford D. Sheffield: Howlett S A L. Cambridge: Howson A J. London: Huffee C A. Leicester: Hughes A N. London: Hughes A. London: Hughes G D. Bristol: Hughes L E. London: Hughes M. Macclesfield: Hughes R. Leeds: Hui A W. London: Hulme W M. Manchester: Hulse C R. London: Humphrey S D. London: Humphreys G O. London: Humphreys M. Bath: Humphreys V K. Bristol: Humphries R J. London: Hundal S S. Maidstone: Hunt C J. London: Hunt S E. Newport: Hunt T A. Windsor: Hunter S A. London: Huq R. London: Hurd D C. Birmingham: Husbands B E. London: Huse D G. London: Hutchinson J. Leicester: Hutchinson M E B. London: Huws O G. Llanrwst: Hvass C. Ipswich

Ibrahim I T. London: Ioannides K. Nicosia: Ioannides P. Nicosia: Iosiphakis J. Nicosia: Ireland M R. London: Irwin C J. Southampton: Isemann W G. Southampton: Isted R W. London

Jackson A D. Leicester: Jackson D W. London: Jackson S L. Cheltenham: Jackson Y. Nottingham: Jacob S B. Nottingham: Jacobsen J L. London: Jacques N C. London: Jain G J. London: James G A. London: Janssen S M. London: Jarrett J M. London: Jayaprakash D. London: Jefferson N A. Bristol: Jeffries H F E. Reading: Jenkins K E. London: Jenkins M. Croydon: Jenkins W C. London: Jenner Z. London: Jensen S. Newcastle upon Tyne: Jesinger P. Manchester: Jhamna P. Cambridge: Jhaveri K. London: Jin L L. London: John I M. St Albans: Johnson A. Crawley: Johnson C L. London: Johnson D M. Leeds: Johnson Gaile Anthea (1460). London: Johnson Gavin Anthony (1721). London: Johnson M E. Manchester: Johnson N R. Windsor: Johnson-Ferguson C P. London: Johnston A C. Leeds: Johnston G J. London: Johnstone C A C. London: Jones A R. London: Jones A. London: Jones J P. London: Jones M A. London: Jones N T. London: Jones N V. Newcastle upon Tyne: Jones S L. London: Jones T M. Sidcup: Jopson W A. London: Jordan G E. London: Joscelyne P M. Oxford: Judd E J. Southampton: Juffs C A. London: Juma S. London

Kadifachi A S P. London: Kadir Ismail N N. Kuala Lumpur: Kambo G S. London: Kamil N R. Derby: Kapica J R. London: Karimjee A. London: Kay J F. London: Keeble D. Birmingham: Keep T T. Sutton: Keeton J P. London: Keller I D. London: Kelly C. London: Kelly I P. Bristol: Kemp C R. Bristol: Kemp M. Birmingham: Kendellen S M. London: Kenna M D. Cambridge: Kennedy D. St Albans: Kennedy W N T. London: Kenny E F. London: Kent-Taylor S J. London: Kenyon N J. St Albans: Keogh-Peters G M. London: Keough R G G. Blackburn: Kershaw R J. London: Khatri S O. Luton: Kiernan E P. London: King D H. London: King L E. Bristol: King S J. London: Kingdom C R. London: Kirby S. London: Kirkland C E. London: Kirkwood P. London: Kirwan G H. London: Kitchener H J. West Bromwich: Kitcher C E. Bristol: Klechtchev V. London: Knapp R P. Leicester: Knight M D. London: Knox A J. London: Koutsoftas P. Nicosia: Krey C. London: Kumar G. London: Kymm C. London

Lacey M J. London: Lack I D. London: Laidlow J D. London: Laine C M. London: Laird R J. Manchester: Lakeman A. Windsor: Lam Yan Foon P E R. London: Lamb R J. Birmingham: Lambe W A. London: Lamers P M. London: Land C J. London: Landon R D. Leeds: Lane M G. Newcastle upon Tyne: Lane P J. Bristol: Lane R M. London: Langford J N. London: Lau B K F. Liverpool Laughton J M. Guernsey: Lawrence B J C. London: Lawrence C S. Norwich: Lawrinson N. Southampton: Lawson J S. St Albans: Le Seelleur A J. Jersey: Leahy E. Manchester: Leci J I. London: Lecroy D A. Manchester: Ledesma A P. London: Lee C J. Nottingham: Lee K A F. Sheffield: Lee L L. Kuala Lumpur: Leese V A. London: Lefort I R P. London: Leighton A D. Nottingham: Lemmon A C. York: Leslie D. Bristol: Lett J W. London: Leung J W M. London: Levy J P. London: Lewis G J. Richmond: Lewis G M. Northampton: Lewis T G J. London: Liao W. London: Liddiard A J. Newbury: Lighting B A. Bristol: Lillis G M. London: Lim C H. Burnham: Lim I L. Kuala Lumpur: Lim J D B P. Kuala Lumpur: Lim N L. Kuala Lumpur: Lindsay A G. London: Lindsay J.T.A. London: Lipman R M. London: Livesey N A J. Leeds: Livingstone R C. London: Lloyd R K. Runcorn: Lobban J M. London: Lockie J. London Lodge G. Manchester: Logan J D. Uxbridge: Loh A. London: Loo L J. Clevedon: Looi K L. Kuala Lumpur: Lopez-Cacicedo C J. London: Louis J S. London: Lovegrove T C. London: Lovelace C B. Reading: Lovell J D. Birmingham: Low D F. London: Lowe L A. Manchester: Loy V J. London: Loyden P N. Liverpool: Lucas S A. London: Luddington B S. London: Lugton A E. Birmingham: Luxton J A. Exeter: Lyon-Mercado P. London: Lyte M D. London: Lyttle D J. Reading: Lytton I. Manchester

Maby A M. London: McAlinden B P. London: McCabe S. Crawley: McCallum J L. Guildford: McCann T J M. London: McCarthy A T. London: McCarthy R J. Manchester: McCartney P E. London: McClements H L. Douglas: McCready D J. London: McCudden F M. London: McCullagh U. London: Macdonald M. London: McDonnell C. Darlington: McDonnell M T. Nottingham: McDonnell W R B. London: McDougall I P. Preston: McFadyen J M. Birmingham: McGee M J. London: McGlashan J A. Swansea: McGregor D J. Hull: McGregor H. Leeds: McGuire M J. Nottingham: McIntyre S L A. London: Mackett J. London: Mackin J L. Corby: McKinney R. London: Mackinnon W R. London: McKnespiey P N. Newcastle upon Tyne: McLaren J C. London: McLaughlin H J. Manchester: Maclean C S. London: McNaughton J N. Ruislip: McNeil L. Birmingham: Macneil S. Ewell: McQuire V B. Croydon: Macrae A J. London: McSheaffrey P K. Leeds: Madan V. London: Madden M L. Hemel Hempstead: Maddock G R. Leyland: Maddrell S J. Cambridge: Maffi F A V. Walton-on-Thames: Magee M J. London: Mahoney E A. Manchester: Main D R. London: Majeed A. London: Mallin-Jones P J. London: Man Chuyin (1701). London: Mander C W. London: Maniatakis N A. London: Mann K S. London: Mansour N J. London: Mant S J. Birmingham: Mapes E C. London: Mapley O N. London: Marjoram P J. London: Marlow R. Leeds: Marr R D. Newcastle upon Tyne: Marren J A F. London: Marriott L E. London: Marrison A J. Readin Marsden N H A. Leeds: Marshall J J. London: Martin A J. Milton Keynes: Martin C J. London: Mason C J. Trowbridge: Mason N J. High Wycombe: Mason S J K. London: Masters M S D. Farnham: Mathews E C A. London: Mathieson A D. London: Matthews M. Birmingham: Matthews M J. Swansea: Mavin D. London: Mawby R G. Birmingham: Meadows S K M. London: Meeking A H. London: Mehmood T J. London: Mehta A. Norwich: Meier R W. London: Menardi F. Leeds: Mercer J. Manchester: Meredith E. London: Meredith J. Exeter: Meredith P J. Cardiff: Metcalf J H. London: Metson A W. Sidcup: Mian N Z. Leeds: Michael Michael (3524). Strovolos: Mignot J. Guernsey: Miles S R. Birmingham: Millar F C. Basingstoke: Millard J H. Staines: Miller E. Sheffield: Miller J M. Tunbridge Wells: Miller M I. Manchester: Miller V. Bishop'S Stortford: Millett J M I. London: Mills M L. Leeds: Millson T. Banbury: Milner G. Gloucester: Milsom M C. Cardiff: Minchew S E. Cardiff: Minty D. Manchester: Mistry A G. London: Mitchell K. London: Mitchell R B. London: Mitson J V. London: Moffat R M U. London: Mohammed Z. High Wycombe: Mohd Yusof S S. Birmingham: Mole D R. London: Montgomery A S. Milton Keynes: Moorby A M. Leeds: Moorcroft D A L. Nottingham: Moore J A. London: Moore S J. Manchester: Moores J. Manchester: Moran J M. Leeds: Morey C C. London: Morgan C. Bristol: Morgan P R. London: Morgan T B. Newcastle upon Tyne: Morrell R. Leeds: Morris A P. Nottingham: Morris R J. St Albans: Mortimer J C. London: Moss A S J. London: Moss N J. London: Mourouzides C. London: Mulvey J P. Birmingham: Mulvihill M M. London: Murphy J E. London: Murray A D. London: Murray B A I. London: Mustard M W. London: Myers H. Manchester Myers P C. Manchester

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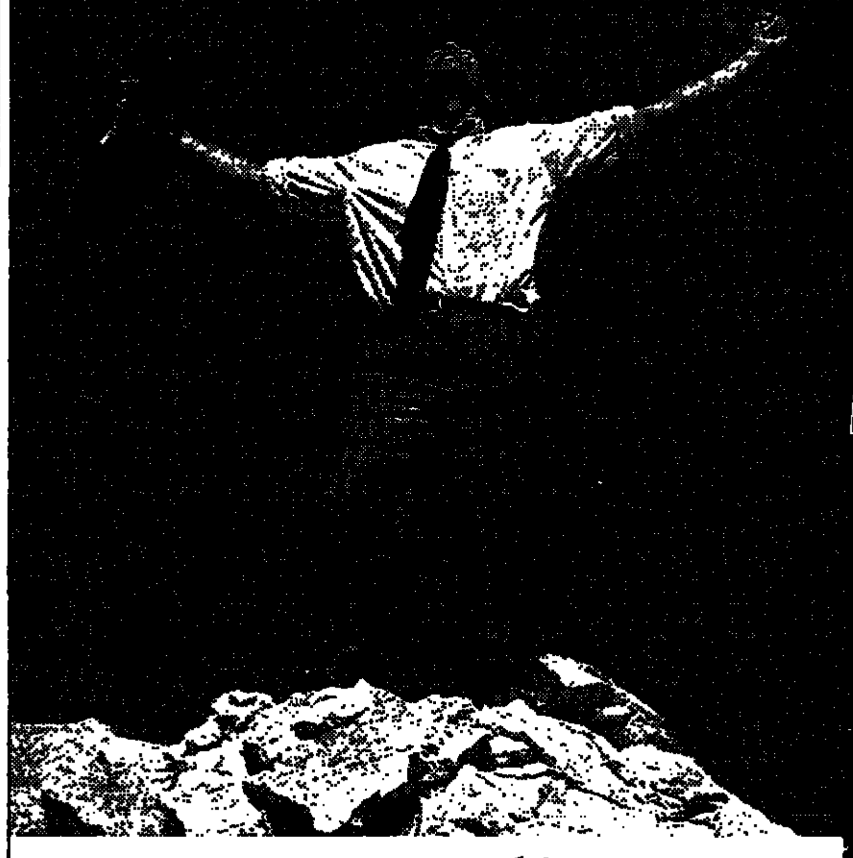

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Easton C S, London, API, FR, MIC; Eaton A, London, API; Eaton G Z, Leeds, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Economides T A, Nicosia, FR, MIC, BPF; Edgar N S, London, API, FR, BPF; Edmett M J, Tunbridge Wells, MIC; Edwards C F, Liverpool, API, fr, BPF, TAX; Edwards D Z, Birmingham, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Edwards R C, Kingston-Upon-Thames, API, FR, MIC; El-Ali R A, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Ella E P, London, TAX; Ellarby A, Preston, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Elliott N, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Ellis C J, Chester, FR, TAX; Empson L, Rotherham, api, fr, TAX; Evans M D, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Evans M G, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Evans P D, Guernsey, API, FR, BPF; Evison M P, Shrewsbury, API, TAX

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Galbraith V J, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Ganpatsingh R I, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Garayal N, London, MIC; Gardezi R L, Loughton, MIC; Garland L C, Southall, MIC, TAX; Gee-Pemberton C, Nottingham, API, FR, BPF, TAX; George P E, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Georghiades G, Nicosia, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Ghosley-Smith N, Manchester, FR, MIC, TAX; Gibbs M J, Reading, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Giblin T C, Newbury, API, FR, TAX; Gifford J C, Glastonbury, api, fr, BPF, TAX; Gill K, Bracknell, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Gill S D, London, API; Gillespie L, Manchester, API, FR; Gillingham B P, Farnham, MIC, TAX; Ginty N J, Bradford, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Goddard M J, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Gol A, London, TAX; Goldman M J, Manchester, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Goldstein A J, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Gopal K S R, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Gordon M D, London, API, FR, BPF; Gould C, Birmingham, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Graham R F, Leicester, API, FR, mic, TAX; Graham V A, Newcastle Upon Tyne, FR, MIC, TAX; Grant T A, New Malden, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Gray S, Nottingham, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Gray T L, Guernsey, API, fr, mic, TAX; Gray W E, Carlisle, FR; Griffin C, Stockport, api, fr, BPF, TAX; Guilbert V, Guernsey, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Gurney S D, Bexhill-On-Sea, API, FR, BPF, TAX

Haddon P G W, Manchester, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Hadjidamianou A, Nicosia, API, FR, BPF; Hadjimarcou Y, Birmingham, TAX; Hallstones K L, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Hale P D, London, API, FR, TAX; Haley D P, Manchester, API, MIC; Hall R L, Nottingham, FR, BPF; Hall S W F, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Hamilton N L, Maidenhead, FR, BPF; Hamilton P N, Croydon, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Hampson K A, Leeds, API, TAX; Hanchard-Brown I A N, Bedford, API, fr, bpf, TAX; Hands K, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Hann D, Cardiff, API; Hannant C J, Great Yarmouth, FR, MIC, TAX; Hansford C, Bournemouth, TAX; Harel P J, London, fr, MIC, BPF, TAX; Harkin D J, Cambridge, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Harland S G, Leeds, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Harrington C D, London, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Harrison G E, Leeds, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Harrison K M, Preston, FR, MIC, BPF; Harrison P, London, API, FR, BPF; Harvey A L, Plymouth, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Hasan I I, London, API, fr, bpf, TAX; Hau W, Nottingham, API; Hawker G R, London, API, fr, mic, BPF; Hawkins M J, Swindon, MIC; Hay M E, Manchester, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Hayes D M, Little Chalfont, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Hayes M D, Swansea, API; Hazelhurst R, Colchester, API, FR, TAX; Heah H I, Kuala Lumpur, API, BPF; Heaslip S A, London, API, FR, TAX; Heesom R J R, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Henderson M C, Leeds, API, FR, TAX; Hendrick A R, Aberystwyth, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Hewitson M W G, Ipswich, FR, TAX; Hewlett M J, Royston, API, FR; Hickey A K, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Hill A D C, St Albans, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Hill E M, Malvern, API, FR, MIC; Hill N F, Reading, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Hill R J, St Albans, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Hinton E, Luton, FR, TAX; Hobday C M, St Albans, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Holden S R, Walton-On-Thames, FR, BPF, TAX; Holland K J, Southampton, api, FR, MIC, TAX; Holley K G, Cardiff, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Holmes R B, Winchester, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Hook K L C, Cardiff, BPF; Hooley A J, Hull, fr, BPF, TAX; Hough J, Chorley, API, MIC; Houliston S D, London, FR, BPF; Hovey S, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Howard S J, Crawley, API, FR, TAX; Howells D R, Banbury, API, TAX; Hudspeth S, St Albans, BPF, TAX; Hughes S B, Liverpool, FR, mic, bpf, TAX; Humphreys A E, Halifax, API; Hunt S A, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Hurst S J, Liverpool, FR, BPF; Huynh A H, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Hynd J L, London, API, FR, MIC

Iacovou A, Limassol, FR, MIC, BPF; Idris H F, Bristol, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Imrie I R, Sudbury, fr, mic, BPF, TAX; Iqbal A S, Sidcup, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Iqbal W, Preston, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Irons T P, Birmingham, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Isaacs D, London, fr, MIC, TAX; Israni A, London, MIC, BPF

Jack S, Northampton, API, FR, BPF; Jackson C, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Jafrani H, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Jeffs N, Windsor, API, FR, BPF; Jenkins G A M, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Jeyes D, Northampton, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Jiang H, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Jiva M T, London, FR, BPF; Johnson G H, London, API, BPF; Johnson M E C, Uckfield, api, fr, MIC; Johnson M P, Leeds, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Jones C K, Manchester, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Jones C M, Bristol, API; Jones D H, Northwich, FR, bpf, TAX; Jones G A N, Carlisle, FR, TAX; Jones R M, Swindon, TAX; Jones S E W, London, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Jones T S, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Jowett D A, Leeds, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Jowett S L C, Leeds, API, FR, TAX; Judge M E, Bristol, API, FR, BPF, TAX

Kamaruzzaman I M, Kuala Lumpur, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Kane A, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Kapadia M U, London, FR, BPF; Kapoor N, Birmingham, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Karayianni E, Limassol, FR, MIC, TAX; Katz M E F, London, API, MIC, BPF; Kaura A K, Pinner, TAX; Keillie M J, London, FR, MIC, TAX; Kelsey A P, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Kelsey K A, Cambridge, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Kempton J D, Reading, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Kent R P, Douglas, API, fr, BPF; Keogh H M, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Key A M L, Norwich, API, FR, BPF; Khalid R, Kuala Lumpur, FR; Khatibi I, Manchester, FR; Killick M J, Chelmsford, API, FR, MIC, TAX; King G H, Reading, API, FR, MIC; Kirk G J, Exeter, FR, BPF, TAX; Kirk S J, Fakenham, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Kirkham A, Liverpool, FR, MIC; Kirkman M C, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Kirmani A, St Albans, api, fr, bpf, TAX; Kittow A J, Exeter, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Knight E, Swindon, FR, TAX; Knott C, Leeds, FR, MIC, TAX; Knott T J, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Kohli R P, Southampton, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Koullas P, Ware, API, BPF, TAX; Kyriakides M, Londo, API, FR, BPF, TAX

La Plain J C A, St Albans, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Laird E J, London, API, BPF; Lam P, Bristol, FR, BPF, TAX; Lamacraft P A, Reading, API, FR, BPF; Lancaster E, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Langford R F, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Lantsbury P J, London, API, MIC; Lau M, Basingstoke, FR, BPF; Lauber D J, London, BPF; Leach H S, Manchester, FR, BPF; Learoyd N C, Londo, MIC, BPF, TAX; Lees D, Cardiff, FR, MIC, BPF; Lees S E A, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Leigh J R, Guildford, TAX; Leigh J G B, London, FR, MIC, BPF; Lennark N A, London, TAX; Leonard D J, Manchester, api, FR, MIC; Leung S B, Birmingham, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Leung V W K, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Lewis M L A, API, FR, TAX; Lewis O P, Cambridge, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Li J C H, Jersey, BPF, TAX; Lieu N J, Winchester, API, fr, bpf, TAX; Lim P W, Kuala Lumpur, FR; Lim P, Kuala Lumpur, FR, MIC, TAX; Lindley S P, London, API, FR; Linstead R C, Taunton, API, TAX; Lloyd-Baker E W R, London, API, mic, BPF, TAX; Locke E, London, API, FR, BPF; Logie S J, Milton Keynes, FR, MIC, TAX; Long S S, Carlisle, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Lorenzi P R, London, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Lotz A E, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Ludgate S R, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Lumley-Wood D J, Milton Keynes, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Lunt T W, London, FR, MIC, BPF; Lwin K T D, Liverpool, API, fr, BPF, TAX

Maal T, Reading, API, FR, BPF, TAX; McAdam D W, Douglas, api, FR, MIC, TAX; McCloskey E, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; McCluskey S K, Swindon, API, FR, BPF, TAX; McCutcheon N C, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Macdonald J E, Nottingham, API; McFarlane R G, London, API, TAX; McGeown C G, London, API, MIC; McIlquham M, Chelmsford, API, MIC, TAX; McIntre L F, Southampton, API, FR, MIC, BPF; McKay S, Oxford, api, fr, BPF, TAX; McKenna E C, Jersey, API, FR, MIC, BPF; McKeran A C, Tunbridge Wells, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; McKillen H E A, Staines, FR, BPF, TAX; Maclachlan I R, Chelmsford, API, FR, TAX; McLachlan S J, Rochdale, TAX; McLarney J J, Dudley, API, FR, BPF, TAX; McMullan S, Nottingham, FR, TAX; Macnamara E J, Manchester, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; McPartlin R, London, MIC, BPF; Mahal K, Birmingham, API, fr, BPF; Majithia R N, Windsor, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Makepeace D E, London, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Makwana L, London, BPF, TAX; Man Chiuming (1518), London, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Mandair B K, Southampton, API, FR, TAX; Mangal A K, Birmingham, api, TAX; Mann M L, Bristol, FR, TAX; Manna R, London, FR, MIC; Marchi R, Manchester, FR, TAX; Mardon T, London, API, FR, MIC; Marshall D, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Martin S, Douglas, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Max K J, Aylesbury, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Max P, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Mayall R J, Bristol, API, FR, MIC; May-Hill R R A, Cardiff, API, mic, TAX; Meadows A J, Birmingham, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Mee V A, Sheffield, fr, BPF, TAX; Mehew P D, Birmingham, API, FR, TAX; Mendenhall-Byrne B, Reading, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Mermagen M R P, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Michael Michael (3556), Nicosia, api, fr, BPF, TAX; Michell D G, Dudley, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Milford S M C, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Millar K B, Manchester, API, FR, bpf, TAX; Miller L S, Manchester, FR; Millington P, Manchester, api, FR, mic, TAX; Millrine B, Manchester, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Mills A J W, London, MIC, BPF; Mills E C, Bristol, FR, MIC; Mills L J, Walsall, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Milner W N W, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Minshall L A, London, FR, MIC, BPF; Mitchell G C, London, API, FR; Mitchell M A, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Mitchell T J, Shrewsbury, MIC, bpf, TAX; Moffat J E, Carlisle, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Mohamad Shah S A, Blackpool, API, fr, BPF, TAX; Mohamed Ali A B, Liverpool, FR, BPF, TAX; Moore D J, Manchester, API, FR, BPF; Moore P J, Bootle, FR; Moore T S, Leeds, API, FR, MIC; Morgan S F, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Morris N J, London, FR, MIC, BPF; Morrison A, London, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Morrison H M, Leeds, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Mott D E C, London, FR, BPF; Mudhar N, London, TAX; Muhammad Radzi A H, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Mulholland R P, Stockport, API, FR, TAX; Mussen R J, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Myers N T, Nottingham, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Myles M, Manchester, FR, BPF

Narrainen T J, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Naylor P P, London, FR, BPF; Neal S N, Nottingham, API, FR; Nelson I J, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Neophytou I, Limassol, fr, mic, BPF, TAX; Neppl B A, Chelmsford, api, fr, BPF, TAX; Nerden M J, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Nesbitt T J, Milton Keynes, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Neves J A, Birmingham, BPF; Newman R D, Manchestr, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Ng M T, Kuala Lumpur, FR; Ng W K, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Ni Chinneide R, St Albans, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Nik Abdul Aziz N A, London, fr, MIC, bpf, TAX; Noble G M, Lincoln, fr, mic, TAX; Norris S J, Swansea, api, MIC; Nugent J M, London, API, FR, TAX; Nyachae M N, FR, BPF, TAX

Oakes C J, London, FR, MIC, BPF; Oakley J E, Kingston-Upon-Thames, API, TAX; O'Callaghan D, Cardiff, API, BPF; O'Callaghan G M, Manchester, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; O'Dwyer T L, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Ohng K K Y, Kuala Lumpur, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Oldfield R G, Walton-On-Thames, fr, MIC, BPF, TAX; Oldnall S, Birmingham, FR, MIC, bpf, TAX; Ong J, London, API, FR, MIC; Ong L Y, Kuala Lumpur, MIC, BPF, TAX; Ong S Y P, Kuala Lumpur, API, FR, BPF; Openshaw C A, London, MIC, BPF; Orger C C, Warrington, TAX; O'Riordan J A, London, FR, BPF; Owen D C, Shrewsbury, TAX

Paddock G K, Newport, API, FR, TAX; Pagliarini R, Eastleigh, API, BPF, TAX; Pakes J, London, fr, MIC, bpf, TAX; Palmieri A L, London, API, FR, TAX; Pankhania A, Richmond, BPF, TAX; Papadopoulou A C, Strovolos, FR, BPF; Papathomas A A, Weybridge, API, FR, MIC; Parekh D R, Birmingham, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Park A M, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Parkes A, Kingston-Upon-Thames, API, BPF; Paschalis S C, London, FR, MIC, TAX; Patel D, Manchester, API, MIC, TAX; Patel K, Manchester, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Patel L M, London, MIC, BPF; Patel N A, London, API, FR, TAX; Patel R, Chelmsford, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Patel Shachi (2950), Guildford, FR, BPF; Patel Sheel (2868), London, API
Patten S, Stockport, FR; Payne B S, London, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Payne C L, Manchester, API, FR; Peachey J J, London, FR; Pearson S D C, London, API, BPF; Peirce A J, Bracknell, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Pereira R A, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Perera V, Croydon, API; Peters-Sahgal N, London, FR; Philippou A, Strovolos, bpf, TAX; Phillips I P, Chester, API, FR, BPF; Pickup D G, London, fr, MIC, BPF, TAX; Pipe G D, High Wycombe, API, bpf, TAX; Pochun C P, London, FR, TAX; Podesta J, Wigan, API, fr, MIC, TAX; Poole B R S J, London, FR, TAX; Powell K R, Cardiff, API, FR, TAX; Powis C A L, Leicester, TAX; Prescott M R A, London, api, FR, BPF; Price J A, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Price M J, Leeds, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Pringle S C, London, api, fr, BPF, TAX; Pritchard B A E, London, FR; Probert C A, Manchester, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Puri Vishal (1441), London, API, FR, BPF, TAX

Quayle R P, Ipswich, API; Quinn A J, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX

Rae H, Douglas, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Rajabali M H, Watford, fr, MIC, BPF, TAX; Rakowicz Z J, London, API, BPF, TAX; Ralph N A, Cardiff, API, TAX; Ramsay S S, London, API; Rands I J, Sheffield, FR; Rawal M N, London, fr, MIC, BPF, TAX; Rayner G M, Walton-On-Thames, MIC, TAX; Raza S, London, FR, MIC; Reddy S A, London, TAX; Redfern D, Sheffield, FR, BPF; Reese A M, Milton Keynes, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Rehman M S, London, API, FR; Reid P, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Rennix C L, Reading, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Reynolds S K, Southend-On-Sea, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Reynolds S M, London, API, MIC, TAX; Rialas P, London, FR, BPF; Richards I B, Coventry, api, FR, TAX; Richards T L, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Richardson S L, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, BPF; Riddleston M B, Bristol, FR, MIC; Rifkind C E, London, API, FR; Rigby A D, London, API, MIC, BPF; Riggs N S, Leicester, API, FR, MIC; Riley T M, Cardiff, API, fr, MIC, BPF; Ripley J C, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Rissik A H, London, api, FR, BPF, TAX; Roberts C, Chelmsford, FR, TAX; Robertson I J, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Robertson K, Widnes, API, fr, mic, TAX; Robinson D J, London, FR, BPF; Robinson E J, Leeds, API, FR, TAX; Robson D, Leeds, api, FR, BPF; Rogers E M, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Rogers H, Birmingham, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Rose A J, Stoke-On-Trent, api, fr, TAX; Ross D G F, Oxford, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Ross N M, Northampton, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Rumbelow A L, Knutsford, FR, MIC, TAX; Rundle S, Sunderland, API, MIC, BPF; Rutter K, West Bromwich, API; Ryan M T, Bristol, API, FR, TAX

Sadler T M, Southampton, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Sakamoto S, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Saleem T N, Leicester, API, FR, MIC; Sandells M W, Ashford, API, FR; Sanders R S B, London, FR, MIC; Sanderson I R, Leeds, API, MIC, TAX; Sandhu N, Sidcup, API, FR, BPF; Sarkar A, Windsor, API, FR; Scade A B, London, BPF; Scanlon J, Croydon, API, fr, BPF; Schofield J L, Sheffield, API, FR, TAX; Schwalbe H, Manchester, API, fr, mic, TAX; Schwarz A C, Maidstone, API, FR; Scott M J, Leicester, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Scott T R, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Scullion N F, Basingstoke, FR; Seaborn G P, London, FR, MIC, BPF; Sehgal P, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, FR, BPF; Shadey A J, Farnham, API; Shah Aashish (1397), London, API, FR, MIC; Shah D, London, MIC, BPF, TAX; Shahbandi E, London, API, FR, MIC; Shahid S, London, FR, MIC, TAX; Sharkey C A, London, MIC; Sharpe P R, Portsmouth, API, FR, TAX; Sheikh A, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Sheikh B, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Sheldon J M, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Sheldon R J, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Shelton A J, Sheffield, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Shepherd J A, Nottingham, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Shepherd M A, Cardiff, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Sheppard J, Cardiff, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Sherman I S, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Shipley J R, Hull, API, FR; Shorten E K, Bedford, api, fr, mic, BPF; Siddiqi S, London, API, TAX; Siddiqui A, Birmingham, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Siddons E, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Simons C, Bristol, FR, MIC, TAX; Simpkin T G, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Simpson A M, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, MIC, BPF; Sinclair J A, Newbury, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Singer J M R, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Singh R K, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Sinha R, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Skilbeck V, Birmingham, API, FR, MIC; Slocombe D T, Bath, FR, MIC; Smiles G, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Smith B M, Liverpool, FR, MIC; Smith D A, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, FR; Smith D O, Daventry, FR, mic, BPF, TAX; Smith J C, Nottingham, fr, mic, BPF, TAX; Smith Justin (1285), Ipswich, FR, MIC, BPF; Smith Kelly Alexandria (1002), London, fr, BPF; Smith L B M, Yeovil, API, FR, TAX; Smith M D, Newbury, BPF; Smith Martin James (1279), Kenton, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Smith michael John (2630), Leeds, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Smith N C J, London, FR, BPF, TAX; Smith Samantha Jane (2866), Leicester, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Smith Sarah Jane (2994), Liverpool, API, FR, TAX; Smith S W, Hull, API, MIC, BPF, TAX; Socratous S, Nicosia, FR, MIC; Sommers C L, Leeds, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Sotiriou A, London, API, FR, TAX; Soupashis C, Nicosia, FR, MIC, BPF; Southon M A, London, API, MIC; Spinage R, Lodon, FR, MIC; Spratt L, Ipswich, API, fr, mic, TAX; Spray A J, Sheffield, FR; Stanley D P, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Steele K, London, API, FR, BPF; Steinbarth M K, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Steiner D M, London, API, fr, mic, TAX; Stevenson G J, Bromley, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Stevenson M, London, API, MIC, TAX; Stockham N M, Northampton, AI, fr, bpf, TAX; Stoker S, London, FR, TAX; Stooks T D, Birmingham, MIC, BPF, TAX; Strachan N G, London, fr, MIC, bpf, TAX; Strouts H M, London, FR, TAX; Stylianakis S, Nicosia, FR, BPF; Sullivan K, Maidstone, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Summerfield L K, Cardiff, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Sumner W B, London, FR, MIC, BPF; Sundaralingam V, London, api, FR, BPF, TAX; Swainston A N, Middlesbrough, fr, mic, TAX; Swallow R G, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX

Tan W K, Kuala Lumpur, MIC, BPF; Tan Y T, Kuala Lumpur, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Tavitian N, Nicosia, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Taylor Lisa (1840), London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Taylor S S, London, API, MIC; Temple C J, London, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Tenhunen P H, London, API, fr, MIC; Teoh J L, Kuala Lumpur, MIC, BPF, TAX; Tham H Y, Kuala Lumpur, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Thirlby P J, Slough, API, F, TAX; Thomas A M, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Thomas C, Liverpool, api, FR, MIC; Thomas D J, Nottingham, API, FR; Thomas L J, Chester, API, FR, BPF; Thomas L A O, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Thompson A, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Thompson D C, Huddersfield, API, FR, TAX; Thompson P C, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Thompson R W, Newcastle Upon Tyne, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Thompson R C, Stoke-On-Trent, fr, BPF, TAX; Thomson N J, London, MIC, BPF, TAX; Thornhill M J, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Thorpe A, Leeds, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Thorpe R M, St Albans, FR, BPF, TAX; Thorpe S K, Kettering, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Tilbury W J, Cambridge, api, fr, MIC, TAX; Timms C B, Leicester, API, FR; Tinworth M S J, London, FR; Todd J J, London, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Toms J, London, fr, MIC, bpf, TAX; Tongue I R, Manchester, FR, MIC, TAX; Took C J, Worthing, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Toorabally S B, Bradford, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Townley-Jones F, Cardiff, FR, MIC, TAX; Tove N M, Cardiff, MIC, BPF, TAX; Travis S, Manchester, API, BPF; Treadwell J S, Preston, FR, MIC, BPF, TAX; Trembath W E, Bristol, FR, TAX; Tucker L G D N, London, api, mic, BPF, TAX; Turner C M, Sheffield, TAX; Turner E, Newport, api, fr, bpf, TAX; Turner J M, London, API, FR, MIC, BPF; Tyson A K, Southampton, api, FR, MIC, TAX

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Yardley J L, Birmingham, API, FR, BPF, TAX; Yates A, London, API, FR, MIC, TAX; Yeap D S, FR, BPF; Yee Chen Hing L F S, London, BPF; Yendle N J, Bristol, API, FR, BPF; Yong C F, Kuala Lumpur, MIC, BPF

Chartered accountants' successful examination candidates continued

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Ulmer D L, Walsall; Underwood C A, London; Underwood C E, London; Underwood S K, Manchester; Uppal L, London; Upton D C, London; Urmson D E, Leicester

Valentine J E, Portsmouth; Van Velp Fernand R A, London; Vane A C T, Richmond; Vaughan C M, London; Veenstra A F M, Jersey; Veillard A R, Guernsey; Verma R K, London; Verso B D, Leicester; Vest N J, Burnham; Vetch R S, London; Vickery E L, London; Vincent J D, Port Talbot; Vincent N D, Douglas; Vlemmiks K, Birmingham; Vohra Sameet (2211), Crawley; Vohra Sandeep (1170), London; Voo T, Slough

Wah Y S, London; Walduck A H, London; Walker G P, Nottingham; Walker J, London; Walker N J, Leeds; Walker R C, Reading; Walklett C, Birmingham; Wall M A, London; Wallbank K A, London; Wallek P D, London; Wallis R E K, Reading; Wallis S L, Leicester; Walmsley M C, Bolton; Walsh H, London; Wan Abdul Rahman W D L, London; Wane C J, Birmingham; Ward J H, London; Ward J H L, London; Ward K F, Southampton; Wardle R, Shrewsbury; Warnes J, London; Watsham T J, London; Watson H E, Farnham; Watson S P, St Albans; Watt S K, Cardiff; Weaver M R, Bristol; Weaver R J, Shrewsbury; Webb J R, London; Webb J I W, Newcastle Upon Tyne; Webb N J, Crawley; Webber F, Reading; Webber J, Exeter; Webber R L, Cardiff; Webster A B, London; Weems M A, Manchester; Wein D M, London; Weiss M C, London; Welbourne M L, Nottingham; Welsh A, Newcastle Upon Tyne; West S E S, London; Westaway J J, Leicester; Weston A C, Manchester; Weston C H, Birmingham; Weston D J, Nottingham; Wharton R M, Carlisle; Wheatley O J, Manchester; White J, London; Whitehead R G, London; Whitehouse J P, Birmingham; Whitig A, London; Whittern S L, Birmingham; Whittow R J, London; Wigg A M, Hemel Hempstead; Wigglesworth S J, Leeds; Wilkin N G, Newcastle Upon Tyne; Wilkinson G J C, Bradford; Wilkinson L A, London; Wilkinson R, Dudley; Willcox J R, Nottingham; Willder A E, Manchester; Williams A Y Y, Reading; Williams G M, Cardiff; Williams H L, London; Williams N F, Southampton; Wiliams R J, London; Williams S, Reading; Williams S J, Bradford; Williamson H, London; Williamson I, Letchworth; Willis C P A, St Albans; Willox Y, Guildford; Willsmer C J, Manchester; Wilson A J, London; Wilson G R B, London; Wilson G R, London; Wilson J, Newcastle Upon Tyne; Wilson J D, London; Wilson K E R, Bristol; Wilson M, London; Wilson Melanie Jane (3130), Stokesley; Wilson Michelle Joanne (2319), Birmingham; Wilson N P, London; Wilson S J, Rugby; Wilson T, Preston; Wingfield D M, London; Winstanley D, Chorley; Winter D L, Carlisle; Winters E, Birmingham; Winyard T, London; Wise K, Newbury; Wiseman H K, London; Witkover P D, St Albans; Wong A C C, London; Wong J D H V, London; Wong N P, London; Wood C R, Leeds; Wood E M, Manchester; Wood M G, Cheltenham; Wood-Roe N W C, London; Woods J, Birmingham; Woods S R J, London; Woodside J N I, London; Woolhouse S A, London; Woollison J Y, Milton Keynes; Workman S F, London; Worrall R, Birmingham; Worthington M A, London; Wright A J, London; Wright M L, Bristol; Wright V E, Bracknell; Wrighton N R, Nottingham

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UK Equity Safeguard	109.29	116.82	- 0.30	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		...
Cash	956.84	960.42	+ 1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	365.80	387.80	- 3.50	1.72
UK Small Cos	78.10	83.52	- 1.30	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	98.24	105.06	+ 0.39	2.11
Geared UK Index	2275.08	2401.79	-30.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	81.80	84.30	+ 0.50	
Monthly Inc	41.83	44.72†	+ 0.03	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	295.70	301.50	- 7.50	.
American Strat	234.58	250.88	-13.09	
JG US Index	2298.09	2423.27	-40.00	4.00
European Gen	320.40	339.00	-10.00	.
European Strat	137.99	147.57	- 3.27	..
Japan Gen	181.50	107.10	- 3.90	
Asia Pacific	66.66	71.10	- 3.11	1.08
Pacific Strat	106.13	113.50	- 8.02	
Greater China	204.27	218.47	-13.16	
Latin America	100.44	107.41†	- 9.54	
Int Growth	163.34	174.79	- 4.60	
Balanced Exempt	154.60	160.00	+ 3.20	
Global Strategy	46.75	49.99	- 1.45	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	830.70	883.70	-10.50	2.57
General Inc	677.10	720.30	- 8.60	2.57
UK Growth Acc	574.30	610.90	- 7.30	2.54
UK Growth Inc	363.10	386.20	- 4.60	2.54
Higher Inc Acc #	1061.00	1128.00	- 9.00	4.84
Higher Inc Inc #	544.60	579.30	- 4.50	4.84
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	232.40	245.60	- 2.70	5.61
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	96.80	102.20	+ 1.10	5.61
Nth America	410.50	436.70	-16.50	..
Europe	437.90	465.90	- 8.70	0.61
Brit Excell	114.30	121.50	- 1.30	2.29
Brit Fodentls Acc	145.10	154.30	- 0.20	4.51
Brit Fodentls Inc	93.08	99.02	- 0.11	4.51
Global Opps	107.70	114.50	- 2.60	0.30
Balanced Acc	72.09	76.68	- 0.82	2.40
Balanced Inc	65.96	70.17	- 0.74	2.40
Japan Acc	33.14	35.25	- 0.68	
Pac Basin Acc	275.90	293.50	-21.50	2.25
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
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American Growth	514.60	548.90	- 7.30	0.30
Asian Pacific	219.60	235.10	-17.10	0.48
Assets & Earnings	337.70	361.20†	- 0.80	2.83
Euro Capital Acc	237.30	253.70	- 3.50	0.79
Extra Inc	42.56	45.30†	+ 0.02	9.18
General	313.50	333.50	+ 0.50	2.94
Global Opps	74.29	79.03	- 1.78	0.40
Japan	71.65	76.64	- 3.21	
Managed Inc	51.77	55.07†	+ 0.10	4.09
Mastertrust	181.20	192.80	- 2.00	1.15
US Emerging Cos	211.30	226.00	- 3.30	
Ethical	89.36	95.06	- 0.73	1.92
International	137.00	145.70	- 2.80	0.60
Dividend & Growth	81.30	86.49	+ 0.18	4.04
Global Grth & Sec	77.99	83.26	+ 0.34	2.43
Latin America	76.06	80.92	- 4.69	0.83
Capital Reserve	153.30	153.40	+ 0.70	4.56
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	110.80	117.80	- 1.60	1.96
Equity Income #	156.30	166.30	- 0.70	3.77
Extra Income #	300.90	319.50	+ 0.30	4.65
Smaller Cos	101.40	107.80	- 0.20	2.13
International	126.00	134.00†	- 3.00	2.17
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	77.74	80.83	- 2.13	
Emerging Mkts	57.48	59.87	- 4.87	
European	165.98	172.63	- 2.76	
Extra Income #	57.62	60.64†	- 0.36	4.63
Far East Emg Eco	75.04	78.70	- 7.16	1.07
Fixed Interest #	29.06	29.17†	+ 0.05	7.92
Fund Inv Tst #	181.06	190.06	+ 0.06	9.96
Japan	137.27	142.61	- 4.37	
Latin American	65.97	69.50	- 3.97	
Pacific	54.38	56.98	- 3.91	0.21
Property	91.84	98.43	- 1.74	1.19
UK Emerging Cos	71.55	77.30	+ 1.08	0.67
UK Growth	68.10	70.93	- 1.66	1.20
Aber World Port #	86.49	91.03†	- 1.66	2.58
Ethical	84.57	87.95†	- 0.41	0.91
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.54	50.54†	+ 0.26	7.13
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2502.00	2606.00	+117.00	
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0171 256 5868				
Resdtl Property #	110.90	117.90		4.80
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	107.14	113.68	- 0.87	1.75
Income Builder Inc	95.14	101.21†	- 1.81	3.20
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Constrd Ord Pens	133.80	139.00		
Foundtn Pens Pens	78.89	81.86		.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	441.50	469.70	-12.00	
Bond	124.40	130.70	+ 0.30	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	112.90	120.10	- 0.70	1.91
Europe	342.80	364.10†	-10.90	.
Euro Smlr Cos	121.90	129.90†	- 1.00	0.31
High Income #	68.24	72.60†	+ 0.39	5.43
Income	403.70	429.50†	+ 3.10	3.99
Japan	270.50	286.50	- 6.10	.
Latin American	101.60	108.30	- 6.80	
Pacific	76.69	81.58†	- 8.20	1.22
UK Smllr Cos	62.92	66.94	- 0.49	1.29
Japanese Sm Cos	442.70	456.60	-12.20	
Mngd Fd	235.40	249.80	- 2.30	2.44
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	427.70	452.10	+ 2.00	0.78
Capital Grwth	160.20	169.40	+ 1.00	2.48
Wrlde Opps	235.40	248.90	+ 0.50	0.89
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.10	101.10	+ 0.10	6.69
Cash Acc	131.10	131.10	+ 0.10	6.69
Income #	703.40	750.38	- 1.10	3.99
Income Builder #	81.06	86.33	+ 0.16	4.58
Intl Income	83.60	88.94	- 1.12	1.43
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	104.40	111.00†	- 0.40	2.25
500	519.00	558.10	+ 2.20	2.07
General	400.30	425.90	- 0.90	1.75
Property	264.10	283.30†	+ 0.30	5.61
Trustee	280.70	298.60	- 1.00	1.66
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	178.40	190.60	- 0.80	1.73
FTSE 100	129.10	137.10†	- 0.70	1.78
Growth Acc	561.20	597.00	- 4.10	1.53
Smaller Cos	60.86	64.92	+ 0.36	2.25
Smaller Cos Acc	73.30	78.19	+ 0.43	2.25
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	229.40	242.40†	- 4.50	0.03
American Growth	159.90	169.40	- 3.20	
Japan	91.93	97.15	- 3.15	.
Japan Acc	92.99	98.27	- 3.23	.
Japan Spec Sits	41.71	44.19	- 1.78	.
Worldwide	209.60	222.50†	- 5.00	0.85
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	49.18	50.84	+ 0.53	7.10
Mngd Grth & Inc #	46.99	49.87	+ 0.12	4.50
Managed Growth	46.23	49.37	- 0.46	0.50
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	179.20	189.20	- 4.90	.
Amer Smllr Cos	163.70	173.80	- 5.30	.
Eastern	170.40	182.80	-17.80	0.30
Equity Income #	123.20	131.20	- 1.00	4.20
European Growth	476.00	506.20	- 7.70	0.80
Europe	417.20	446.40†	- 4.20	0.80
German Growth	103.30	109.50	- 2.00	0.50
Global Bond	74.59	78.44	+ 0.67	4.60
Global Growth	167.40	177.60†	- 4.00	0.40
Japan Growth	107.20	113.50	- 8.40	
Japan Sunrise	77.98	82.56	- 2.96	.
Korea Trust	16.88	18.47	-11.66	
Portfolio	170.50	181.30	- 2.00	2.00
-do- Accum	329.20	350.10	- 3.90	2.00
UK Growth	130.70	139.10	- 1.80	1.80
UK Smaller Cos	119.60	129.60	+ 1.10	1.00
Select Managers	93.49	98.77	- 0.73	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Grth Port Inc	100.00	106.40	- 2.40	
Special Oppor Inc	57.25	60.90	- 4.10	.
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	178.15	186.58	- 0.27	1.11
-do- Accum	210.74	219.52	- 0.33	1.11
Smaller Cos	181.92	189.50†	+ 1.09	0.47
Higher Yield #	69.11	71.99		3.56
American Gth Inc	131.23	138.70	- 3.73	
European Growth	191.93	198.93	- 0.58	.
-do- Accum	198.04	204.21	- 0.59	.
Mngd Ptflio Inc	58.10	60.52	- 0.69	1.22
-do- Accum	60.89	63.43	- 0.72	1.22
Int Spec Opps	182.49	190.08	- 4.34	.
Pacific Grth	106.78	111.23	- 6.05	0.01
UK General #	121.55	126.62	+ 1.34	2.83
-do- Accum #	133.86	139.44	+ 1.47	2.83
Japan	36.85	38.39	- 1.51	.
Gilt & Fixed Int #	109.11	113.07†	+ 1.73	7.31
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.58	67.43	+ 0.31	6.19
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Enviro	211.50	222.60†	- 1.30	1.56
UK Growth	263.40	277.30	- 0.90	1.55
UK Income	186.10	195.80	+ 1.90	3.56
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	269.00	285.10	- 4.40	1.19
-do- Income Dist	153.70	162.90†	- 0.30	3.10
-do- Accum	517.70	549.80†	- 1.10	3.10
Gilt & Fxd Int	43.76	46.98	+ 0.53	5.00
Growth Units	319.40	341.00	- 4.90	1.70
Bond	189.40	199.20	+ 2.40	5.70
Intl Growth	224.10	238.30	- 6.60	0.30
North American	315.80	334.70	- 4.60	.
Far East	184.50	197.30	-15.70	1.07
UK Smaller Cos	254.90	272.60	+ 0.30	1.06
European	111.50	118.60	- 1.90	0.54
Japanese Growth	28.81	30.53	- 1.05	
High Income	268.69	285.60	- 1.70	2.59
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	284.00	300.30	- 4.70	
European Inc	118.20	125.60	- 1.00	0.10
Smaller Cos (4-1)	108.10	115.00	+ 0.10	1.88
Growth	674.60	717.70	- 5.10	1.84
Income & Growth #	575.60	612.40	- 2.60	4.16
-do- Accum #	899.10	956.50	- 4.20	4.16
Japan & Gen	47.21	50.13	- 1.90	...
Hallmark Grth	1441.00	1502.00	-14.00	1.65
-do- Accum	1810.00	1886.00	-18.00	1.65
Special Sits	155.90	165.90	- 1.20	1.82
High Yield	1840.00	1897.00†	- 8.00	3.73
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	113.44	120.71	- 0.31	2.38
American Portfolio	161.16	170.89†	- 2.06	0.69
European Portfolio	160.74	170.90	- 1.33	0.37
High Income	55.39	58.33†	+ 0.55	6.62
Japanese Portfolio	43.47	46.10†	- 1.91	
Pacific Portfolio	109.19	117.41†	- 7.59	0.94
UK Equity	112.23	119.73	- 0.72	2.94
UK Equity & Bd	66.77	70.73†	+ 0.35	5.00
UK Smlr Cos	54.09	57.85	+ 0.64	1.65
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	903.42	947.52	+40.21	3.60
Inv Fd Acc	965.36	979.94	+41.58	...
Fxd Int Sec Inc	162.86	162.70	+ 0.39	8.79
Fxd Int Sec Acc	173.27	173.97	+ 0.43	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	894.09	907.61	..	3.83
Investment Acc	4296.73	4361.67	...	...
Fixed Int Inc	133.86	134.20	...	8.64
Fixed Int Acc	265.53	266.59		.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	97.02	102.02	+ 1.36	6.06
Beck Bio-Tech	40.01	43.19†	+ 0.81	.
Acorn Ethical Tst	214.05	227.71†	+ 1.45	0.54
City Fin Assets	87.75	92.15	+ 2.81	2.89
City Fin Intl	86.53	92.05†	+ 1.34	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	367.60	391.15	+13.30	1.60
Buckley Wrld Grth	143.48	152.09	+ 4.81	...
Stow Utilities	83.50	85.16†	- 0.09	3.52
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	47.13	50.01	- 4.34	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grth	96.45	102.61	- 2.46	...
Dragon Growth	46.02	49.21	- 3.59	1.98
Equity High Inc	113.25	119.84†	- 0.54	3.16
-do- Accum	170.94	180.86	- 0.82	3.16
Extra Income Inc	28.36	30.49	+ 0.34	6.07
Extra Income Acc	33.67	36.44	+ 0.39	6.07
European Grth	79.47	84.10	- 2.36	0.15
Evergreen	34.85	37.27	- 0.60	.
General Equity	131.67	138.97	- 1.09	2.28
Japan Growth	31.75	33.78	- 1.06	
Pedigree Grth	79.74	84.39	- 0.44	1.47
Pcd Sm Cos Inc	41.72	44.15†	+ 0.37	1.35
-do- Accum	44.92	47.53	+ 0.38	1.35
Retirement Inc #	33.66	35.81	- 0.21	4.98
Special Sits	54.90	58.80	- 0.37	2.39
UK & Overseas	65.16	68.95	- 1.83	0.56
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	80.89	84.36	- 0.42	3.54
Capital	99.01	103.13	- 1.87	1.83
High Income	56.56	58.91†	+ 0.71	6.40
Top 50	72.43	75.44	- 0.75	1.94
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	227.36	236.86	+ 1.74	4.28
Long Gilt	51.04	53.13	+ 1.14	4.86
Monthly Inc Plus	58.88	61.34	+ 1.03	7.30
Preference Share	56.85	59.22	+ 1.01	6.58
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	164.25	171.11	+ 1.61	5.50
Managed Fund	83.76	87.26	- 0.84	2.43
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.58	53.73	- 0.29	1.58
-do- Accum	61.68	64.26	- 0.34	1.58
UK & General	121.10	128.16	- 2.69	2.15
-do- Accum	162.79	169.07	- 3.60	2.15
UK Growth	241.72	251.82	- 1.79	1.56
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	262.01	272.96	- 4.03	0.49
Far Eastern Grth	93.83	97.75	- 5.18	0.29
Global Bond	71.71	74.71	+ 0.24	5.13
Japan Growth	83.97	87.48	- 2.71	.
North Amer Grth	301.87	314.48	- 5.54	.
Oriental Growth	56.74	59.11	- 4.04	0.83
Worldwide Growth	78.92	82.22	- 1.61	0.32
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.41	92.41	+ 0.10	6.50
Homemaker Fund	98.86	106.83	- 0.95	2.04
Quilter Fund	171.91	182.88	- 2.50	1.73
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	41.67	44.49	+ 0.41	2.79
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	193.90	206.20†	- 0.70	2.23
Income	87.44	93.01	+ 0.31	3.73
European Growth	90.74	96.38	- 1.16	0.30
Recovery	205.80	218.90	+ 3.20	1.92
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1151.60	1170.00†		3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 650 370				
European Inc	81.56	86.49	- 2.28	0.38
Fellowship Tst	120.70	128.30	+ 0.20	1.14
Income #	333.00	354.20†	- 2.00	3.92
-do- Accum #	939.80	979.50	- 5.60	3.92
Smaller Cos	235.90	250.90	+ 2.70	0.73
-do- Accum	294.70	313.50	+ 2.70	0.73
Gilt Portfolio	116.50	123.90	- 0.80	1.28
Mthly Inc Port #	99.17	105.50	- 0.60	3.96
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1798.50	1809.10	+17.30	0.57
UK Small Cos	2319.30	2420.60	+14.50	2.84
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	253.30	261.10	+ 0.70	.
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smlr Cos	190.60	202.70	- 5.40	.
Asian Growth	180.80	192.30†	-18.30	0.30
Bond Income	108.00	112.00†	+ 1.20	7.30
European	227.30	241.80	- 1.10	0.50
European Pnr	120.70	128.40	- 1.10	2.80
European Special	160.40	170.60	+ 1.40	...
Gilt Yield	127.70	134.70†	+ 1.80	6.30
Global Eqty Inc	133.30	141.50	- 2.60	1.60
High Yield	195.90	208.40†	- 1.00	4.60
Japan	273.40	290.80	- 9.20	.
Japanese Special	124.80	132.70	- 2.40	
Money Market	102.51	102.51†	+ 0.10	6.00
North American	137.40	146.00	- 3.00	
Smaller Cos	159.80	170.00	+ 0.50	1.00
Smlr Cos Div	69.32	73.74	+ 0.31	3.60
Tomorrows Co Ex	1143.00	1160.00	-22.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	61.09	64.98	- 0.38	1.10
UK Index Inc	410.40	412.40	- 7.29	2.90
Bircham Tst	116.80	125.80†	+ 4.70	1.70
Global Income	247.20	262.90	- 3.00	3.10
Formerly Thornton				
European	393.50	412.00	- 2.50	0.80
Europe Bd	38.15	40.71	+ 0.91	6.58
Exempt	820.00	855.50	- 3.60	2.70
Global Em Mkts	72.11	75.50	- 4.87	0.60
Japan Tst	60.21	63.04	- 3.23	.
Little Dragons	71.14	74.49	- 4.40	.
Nth Amer Grth	387.80	408.00	- 8.40	0.40
Oriental Income #	39.18	41.02	- 2.03	4.50
Preference	149.20	156.20	+ 2.10	7.60
Tiger	191.20	200.10	-14.80	
UK Blue Chip	102.00	106.70	- 1.90	1.40
UK Growth	796.90	834.40	- 2.90	0.80
UK High Yield #	142.00	148.60	+ 0.10	4.60
UK Mid-Cap	377.10	394.80	+ 7.70	1.50
UK Smlr Cos Dir #	91.11	95.40	+ 0.36	5.80
UK Smllr Cos	138.00	144.40	+ 0.78	0.70
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 080 526				
Convertibles #	24.60	26.14†	+ 0.28	5.36
Enterprise	120.50	127.70†	+ 0.19	1.96
Equity Income #	170.60	181.30†	- 0.40	3.53
European	75.48	79.80	- 0.56	..
Financial	71.00	75.44	+ 0.57	1.33
Growth & Inc #	351.70	373.70	- 0.70	2.34
High Dist #	219.30	232.90†	+ 0.20	3.85
International	427.80	454.50	- 7.40	0.22
Int Cap Inc	116.10	123.90	- 1.90	2.18
Latin American	34.54	38.70	- 2.85	
Mgd Grwth Port	98.85	103.30	+ 3.10	0.68
Pacific	64.93	68.99	- 3.65	...
Pref High Inc	26.17	27.81	+ 0.42	6.47
Tokyo	142.70	150.80	- 4.10	.
UK Smaller Cos	251.80	267.50	+ 3.80	1.12
Japan Sm Cos	228.10	241.40	- 2.50	..
Nth Amer	530.40	560.90	-10.50	0.52
UK Inc & Grth	317.80	337.90	+ 1.10	2.19
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Digs	128.62	138.98	+ 4.82	0.94
Growth Acc	316.40	336.80	+ 5.13	0.20
Income	638.50	680.35	..	5.47
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7281				
Endurance Fd	244.80	260.40	.	1.02
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	112.08	117.98	- 1.59	1.48
Ethical Tst	54.04	56.88	- 0.42	1.07
Far Eastern	213.77	225.02	- 9.58	1.98
High Income	171.16	180.17†	- 1.05	4.01
UK Index Trcking	65.29	68.73	- 1.50	2.44
Intl Growth	134.50	141.58	- 3.26	1.41
North American	191.09	201.15	- 3.80	1.37
Pelican	175.73	184.98	- 3.71	2.51
Smaller Cos	73.95	77.84†	- 0.17	2.21
Special Sits	80.83	85.61	+ 0.77	2.89
Tst of Inv Tsts	232.37	244.60	+ 0.34	1.64
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	133.63	141.78	+ 2.20	
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.14	61.69	+ 0.29	0.47
High Income #	43.91	46.58	+ 0.49	10.74
Warr & Gl Opps	51.30	55.16	+ 0.36	
Zero Preference	48.62	51.59†	+ 0.10	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	118.10	125.60	+ 0.20	2.12
United Charities	339.10	360.70	- 0.30	2.57
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	.	6.80
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	25.05	27.01	+ 0.10	5.41
Strategic Inc	30.18	31.53	+ 0.20	5.39
Income Funds				
High Income	31.34	32.88†	+ 0.10	4.78
Income Plus	169.00	179.70†	- 0.70	3.87
European Income	61.49	65.20	- 0.11	1.72
Moneybuilder Grth	38.93	39.21	- 0.19	2.42
Equity Funds				
ACEAN	28.04	29.91	- 2.84	
American	412.90	438.30†	- 5.00	
Amer Spec Sits	221.10	235.90	- 5.80	
Japan Smaller Cos	16.88	17.90	- 0.49	..
European	289.20	307.50	- 3.20	0.35
European Opps	106.40	113.10	- 1.10	0.50
Global Prv	38.23	40.85	- 0.28	0.40
UK Growth	157.90	161.80	- 0.60	1.21
Growth & Inc	221.20	235.20	- 1.10	2.55
Intl PEP	58.27	61.98	- 0.86	1.11
Japan Spec Sits	55.24	58.59	- 1.73	..
Japan	146.30	155.10	- 4.30	
Managed Intl	417.40	443.40	- 9.70	0.61
Moneybuilder Plus	75.48	78.02	- 0.77	0.34
Recovery	70.52	74.99	- 0.83	1.82
South E Asia	147.09	156.30	-10.90	1.34
Special Sits	904.60	961.90	+ 8.60	1.17
Specialist Funds				
Cash Access Units	122.53	122.53	+ 0.12	6.60
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	166.40	187.20	+ 4.70	1.55
Finsbury Pfl Inc #	110.50	111.30†	+ 1.50	5.77
Cap Plstn	186.30	187.80	- 3.60	
General Opps	164.98	165.90†	+ 3.10	3.26
Growth Inc	46.25	46.75†	- 0.60	1.18
Private Portfolio	564.40	570.80	+17.60	0.75
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	166.30	176.90	+ 0.60	
High Income	22.30	23.69†	- 0.12	9.50
Japan Smlr Cos	10.96	11.77	- 0.16	.
US Smaller Cos	523.70	556.80	- 4.80	.
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	100.60	105.60	- 2.40	
-do- Accum	100.60	106.80	- 2.40	.
Amer Smlr Cos	738.60	788.50	-13.00	..
-do- Accum	754.60	805.50	-13.30	...
Capital Tst	412.00	438.30	+ 0.90	1.26
-do- Accum	613.40	652.60	+ 1.30	1.26
Contl Smllr Cos	65.84	70.38	- 0.03	1.03
-do- Accum	70.65	75.51	- 0.04	1.03
Convertible	151.10	160.70	+ 2.90	5.38
-do- Accum	342.30	364.20	+ 6.90	5.38
Emerging Markets	59.93	64.03†	- 5.01	0.54
-do- Accum	60.45	64.58†	- 5.05	0.54
European	185.50	197.60	- 2.80	.
-do- Accum	198.39	210.10	- 3.00	.
Extra Income	471.90	502.00	- 3.40	3.99

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WEEKEND MONEY

IT'S THE LIMIT 64

Savers hope the £50,000 Isa cap will be lifted

Shareholders grow up fast in 1997

Clare Stewart and **Marianne Curphey** report on a year when society flotations created thousands of new shareholders but bad news from Asia quickly showed them that shares were not a one-way bet

The impact of the general election, the flotation of some of the best-known building societies, dissent over EMU and turmoil in Asia were the defining events for the UK stock market in 1997.

Throughout the year a correction — or dip in share prices — was regularly forecast by many fund managers. On several occasions it seemed about to happen, but the market always pulled back from the brink.

The year began with large gains for members of building societies who qualified for free shares on flotation. The conversion from mutual to plc of four building societies and the Norwich Union insurance company created £20 billion of free shares and greatly increased the number of people holding shares directly.

Those who sold their shares for cash made large gains, on the back of strong rises in the banking sector as a whole. Although banking shares languished in the autumn, they have recovered some of their form in the past two weeks.

There was high drama as the Nationwide Building Society faced an attempt by members to force it to demutualise. One member, Andrew Muir, 32, of Slough, is now bidding for a seat on the society's board with a view to persuading the directors to return surplus profits to members.

The general election in May was expected to turn the screens red if Labour won, but no upset occurred and the index of the top 100 companies rose nearly 200 points further in the month after election day. In September speculation about the UK joining the single European currency burst upon the market sending shares rocketing.

This was because fund managers were hopeful that the UK's interest rate policy would move closer to those on the Continent, where rates have historically been much lower. The incoming Government also gave control over interest rate policy to the Bank of England.

In the weeks that followed, share prices dipped as it became clear that the Government's European policy was still undecided and ministers played down hopes of joining EMU in 1999.

Investors had their nerves tested again in October, when turmoil in the Asian markets caught out even the most experienced stock market watchers. Some pension fund managers by now had a double headache — they had stayed out of the UK and US believing both markets to be overvalued and ripe for a fall.

Many had been touting Asia, and particularly Japan, as the new opportunity for stock market growth. Their fears were dashed when the Nikkei 225 index fell 2,000 points between the beginning of October and the end of November to a low point of 15,082.52. With worries about the Asian markets still fresh in the minds of investors, and the FTSE currently marking time, it is easy to forget how much progress the stock market has made this year.

Early in January the FTSE 100 was languishing just above 4,000, hitting a low for the year of 4,036. Yesterday the FTSE 100 was around the 5,050 level, having hit a peak during the year of 5,367.3, which was also an all-time record for the index. Many year-end estimates from analysts and other market watchers 12 months ago now look very conservative, as expectations were for the market to end 1997 at about 4,400. "We were seen as outright bulls when we forecast 4,600 for the end of 1997," said David McBain, NatWest Markets' equity strategist. "There was concern that the market's momentum would falter in 1997 in reaction to factors such as a rise in US interest rates."

The surprise for the City was that the threat to the health of the UK's stock market came not from the US, which many pundits felt was overvalued, but from the Far East. Richard Crehan, head of UK strategy at SBC Warburg Dillon Read, said: "Most people started off 1997 with fairly sedate expectations, and many upgraded forecasts just before the problems in Asia. When we looked for trouble we looked west, to Wall Street."

At Merrill Lynch, the earliest estimates were for 4,350, upgraded to 5,000 in March. "Two things have surprised us this year," said Tim Huddart, UK strategist. "The absence of significant inflationary pressure and the strong bond market, both of which have helped give equities room to appreciate in value."

Julian Buck, head of business development at Barclays Stockbrokers, feels his faith in the market's resilience has been borne out by events, having predicted and stuck to a year-end figure for the FTSE 100 index of 5,200.

Analysts are now saying that in the wake of the initial shock administered by the Far Eastern markets, both New York and London have recovered their poise, and are being supported by some strong underlying factors. The high level of liquidity in the market is a key feature that has helped the markets in 1997 and which will continue to have an impact next year.

Faces of 1997: Tony Blair arrives in Downing Street, left, Andrew Muir, above, tries to board Nationwide and a sea of red Tokyo

As shown by the current run of cash takeover bids together with the number of share buy-backs underway or planned, the institutions are filling up their coffers. With few new share issues to absorb demand their spending power is expected to provide a continuing boost to equities.

"The market is not strained at current levels, and is reasonably valued when you look at yields," said Mr McBain. NatWest Markets is looking for a 1998 year-end total of 5,700, and sticking to its forecast of 7,000 by 2000. In spite of the generally positive tone of analysts for the year overall, the horizon is not without clouds.

Worries about economic slowdown and the threat of recession are mooted by some as a possibility while the expectation of further interest rate rises in the UK and the impact of a rate increase in the US, also give pause for thought.

"The market has got things to think about and in 1998 there is the potential for it to drop back 500-600 points," said Richard Jeffrey, group economist at Charterhouse. "But such losses could be regained and the market still end higher."

Mr Huddart said further rises in interest rates may be expected but "the market is looking beyond that, anticipating that rates will peak next year."

There could be further reverberations from the problems in the Far East, he added. As well as the key groups, such as HSBC, with a clear exposure to these markets, there could be other UK companies squeezed by South Korean or other Asian groups cutting back on investment in the UK plants which has a knock-on effect on the local economy.

The prophets of gloom forecasting a hard landing for the economy next year are painting an overly bleak picture, according to Mr Crehan of Warburgs, where a year-end total of 6,000 is pencilled in. He pointed to the flexibility of monetary policy that "will move rates down as much as up," combined with the impact next year of stronger growth in Europe and weaker sterling, that will help to cushion the economy.

Matthew Orr, head of Killick & Co, the private client stockbroker, continues to be bullish on prospects having forecast 5,500 for the 1997 year end and now looking for 5,950 for the 1998 year end. It will be a liquidity-driven market and he expects interest rates to be coming down from the middle of the year.

Financial groups which led the market up for much of this year, are again favoured for growth by some analysts in 1998, though others, such as Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse, take a more neutral view.

The transport sector, in particular bus and train groups, is likely to move up a gear said Mr Huddart, "as investors lose their fear of regulation". The sector could also be boosted by the Government's moves to encourage more use of public transport.

Support service groups are also tipped for growth in 1998, particular those, said Mr Orr, that are not vulnerable to changes in the economic climate but responding to bigger changes such as increased outsourcing of staff.

Utilities, already popular as a safe haven, also look promising, with water groups singled out. FTSE 250 companies look undervalued at current prices, said Richard Crehan at Warburgs. Against the background of a healthier housing market, house builders in the 250 listing could pick up together with retailers of household furnishings.

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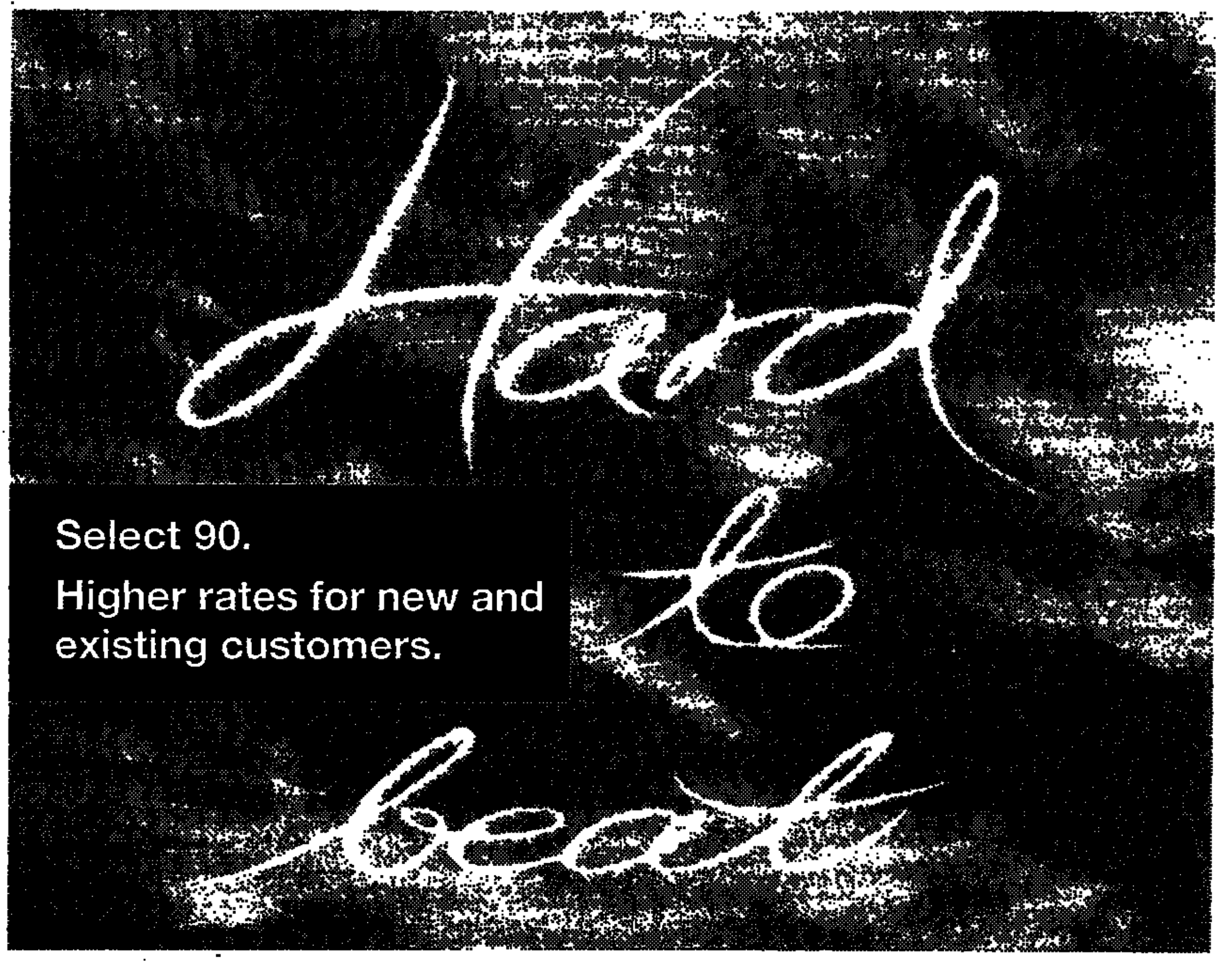

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Full Steem ahead to Britex

London's Stock Exchange is no longer *such a* safe place for private investors to trade. That is not an outrageous scare. The exchange itself advises private investors in the top 100 stocks that caution is needed. They should not rely any more on the basic rule obliging brokers to execute trades at the best price available. It is safer to put price limits on sales or purchases, *especially if* trading at quiet times near the start or end of the day's play. The *inherently greater risk* of rapid price variations in stock of smaller companies has spread to the *big ones*.

Officials should not be blamed for giving sensible advice. To be *frank at* the cost of losing face is a welcome virtue. But the problem behind this is *sad and alarming*. It will be solved only by slicing the exchange in two.

The *culprit is the* Exchange's switch to "Sets", a new push-button trading system. This advance *might have* used existing UK practice. Wholesale market-makers quote screen prices at which they will deal, although the system never quite worked as most *deals* are done at finer prices than those quoted.

Instead, automated trading has been linked to a New York style order-book system. Buying and selling offers for *FTSE 100 stocks* posted on a computer are matched automatically. By cutting *out middlemen* who need a return on capital used to hold stock, this aimed to *cut the buy-sell spread* for big investors.

There is a price to pay for everything. *Judging from the* gyrations of New York's Dow Jones average during the *trading day*, order-book systems seem to be more volatile. But neither this, nor *the inevitable teething* troubles, fully explain the Exchange's embarrassment.

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

London is operating two systems simultaneously. Sets was promoted by *big foreign securities firms*, abetted by officialdom. Most small brokers and many fund managers did not want it. And Sets cannot handle small orders economically. So market-makers continue to operate alongside Sets for the top 100, as well as all other stocks.

Less than *half FTSE 100 trade* goes through Sets, so liquidity in both *elements of the market has shrunk*, especially before big players digest their *breakfast*. In theory, *small investors* should be insulated. In practice, the lower limit for Sets varies widely from share to share and some brokers package small orders together to keep costs down. It pays to check.

Sets is here to stay, if only because it fits international practice. It should work better, and really cut institutional investors' costs, if all their trade in FTSE 100 stocks is pushed through the system. That way, it would also be harder to fix the index, easing a key teething trouble. The Exchange is, however, in no position to insist. Many domestic fund managers are appalled at the price distortions under Sets.

The bigger issue would remain. What happens to small investors' orders and what happens to trading in the vast *majority* of quoted national and smaller companies not covered by Sets?

The thinner the trade in a company's shares, the greater the advantage of *having wholesalers to maintain a* market. There is no case to extend Sets to the next 250 companies in the foreseeable future, let alone to all the others. Yet as remaining UK securities firms are sold to global houses, market-making capacity and expertise will *shrink* fast.

The *answer must be two markets* that operate and are governed separately. Institutional trading in FTSE 100 stocks and those at the fringe should be integrated with the London market in European, US and Asian stocks as a separate institution, *perhaps* called the Stock Exchange European Equities Market. "Steem" *should throw open its board and make* itself acceptable to users and banks as a *genuine* European market.

In parallel, we need to create a national market, perhaps called "Britex", for shares in all the other companies that international investors have little interest in, plus AIM and private investors' dealings in Steem stocks. This market would depend on wholesale market-makers, so it had better be created fast before they all disappear for good. And Britex should guard against the weakness that has plagued the Stock Exchange for the past 20 years: it should be governed as much by investors as by professionals.

Fundraiser applauds positive approach

Co-operative Bank's promise *not to deal* with repressive regimes and arms companies, and its anti-factory farming and fox-hunting stance was not the only thing that persuaded James Jopling, 25, an Oxfam fundraiser, to switch his bank account from Bank of Scotland (Patrick Collinson writes).

Mr Jopling *was impressed* by the Co-op's proactive lending policy, which seeks out businesses and organisations that promote fair trade and encourages borrowers to avoid damaging *the environment*.

"They weren't just negative, saying *they would avoid* things such as supporting the arms trade. They also want to do positive things to support the environment and local communities, and I like the fact that they say *they won't speculate against* the pound," he said.

Switching bank accounts and moving direct debits and standing orders *can be* problematic, but the transfer took about a *month* and went fairly smoothly. He joins the 500,000 new customers that Co-op has taken on in the past three years, bringing its total to two million and supporting its *claim that it is one of the* fastest growing UK banks.

Mr Jopling says *he is not* too bothered if Co-op is not ethically pure in everything it does. "If you stick your head above the parapet you're bound to have shots taken at you. But you have to take little steps forward to help move everybody along."

He believes that by taking an ethical stance and giving publicity to campaigns such as that opposing child labour, Co-op will lead other banks and financial organisations to take a more ethical position. Mr Jopling first became aware of the Co-op's *ethical stance when he* took out an Oxfam Visa card, which the *Co-op* administers. Transactions on Oxfam Visa cards have *raised* £150,000 for the charity.

Patriotic point: James Jopling liked the fact that the Co-op will not speculate against sterling

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How green is your wallet?

Patrick Collinson looks at good homes for ethical investors' funds

How green can your finances go? If you *want* a biodegradable plant-based credit card not *based on any* fossil fuels, Greenpeace can help out or *there's the Earth Saver account*, a joint venture between Friends *of the Earth and Triodos Bank*. It invests in sustainable energy projects while giving competitive interest of up to 6 per cent.

Green campaigners fought hard at the Kyoto UN conference on climatic change to force the US to cut greenhouse gas emissions. But they are enjoying more success in convincing the public to think green with its money. Green investing — screening share investments to eliminate companies such as tobacco or arms firms — is big *industry. Ironically, its biggest* success has been in Kyoto's environmental bogeyman, the US. The US Social Investment *Forum estimates $600 billion in* US investment portfolios is "socially screened".

The UK is fast catching up. In the 16 months from June 1996 to October 1997, ethical funds under management in UK unit trusts and investment trusts jumped to £1.6 billion from £1.1 billion. The number of independent financial advice firms specialising in green investment advice is growing even *more rapidly — from 36 to nearly* 70 over the past year. Green *savings accounts*, Tessas, Peps, unit trusts, investment trusts, charity accounts, pensions and credit cards are all available. The new Isa will also allow tax-free investments in industrial provident societies, which specialise in ethical investing.

The burgeoning range — and a creditable performance *record — has encouraged a new* breed of ethical investor, *dubbed* "*light green*" by *the* industry. Giles Chitting, a *consultant* at Holden Meehan, a Bristol ethical adviser, said: "We get a few green "fundamentalists" but most people who come to us say they want a decent return but will not compromise on key values. They know they are going from a state of no grace to some grace and there will always be a gap between what they can achieve and the ideal." So whether you are light or dark green, what *are your ethical options*?

SAVINGS

For "*light greens*" *there* is the Co-operative Bank, Ecology Building Society and Triodos Bank. The Co-op, the biggest "green" bank with two million customers, promises not to invest in or supply financial services to repressive regimes, tobacco manufacturers or businesses involved in the fur trade, field sports and animal experimentation for cosmetics.

The Ecology Building Society *specialises in lending* depositors' money to socially *responsible housing projects*, often to borrowers other societies would refuse. Triodos Bank is a Dutch ethical bank with a £200 million asset base that set up in the UK in 1995 and invests in projects to add social or environmental value.

For the committed "dark green" saver, there are ac*counts which pay only the rate* of inflation, and pass on prof*its to worthy* causes. *Triodos* Bank offers specialist accounts where *money raised is invest*ed in target communities, such as the Earth Saver, Organic Saver, North-South Plan and Just Housing. Other organisations, such as Shared Interest and Radical Roots take in money to lend for local regeneration projects. They can be contacted via the Social Investment Forum on 0171 737 1004.

TESSAS

The Co-operative Bank offers *a Tessa at 7 per cent. Ecology* Building Society at 6.25 per cent and Triodos at 7.25 per cent. Lee Coates, director of Ethical Investors Group, said: "Green investors should avoid high street banks for Tessas or savings accounts. Building societies are mutual and do not lend to companies or Governments so are ethically neutral compared to the big banks."

For the light green saver, the minimum for an ethical fund is screening to avoid investing *in armaments, tobacco and al*cohol firms. This includes the *top-performing Credit Suisse* Fellowship trust. Framlington *Health is not* typical of other ethical funds because it invests only in *healthcare* businesses but avoids pharmaceutical groups that test non-medical products on animals.

True "dark green" investors seek pro-active funds with green investments as well as screening out unethical companies. These include Friends Provident Stewardship, NPI Global Care and Jupiter Ecology. Each of the three groups win plaudits from ethical advisers for the quality of their *ethical research* and *for* "squeaky-clean" investments.

PENSIONS

Green pension options depend on whether you have a personal or occupational plan. Occupational scheme rules restrict trustees from using ethical criteria as an investment basis. Some local authority occupational pension schemes are challenging this, with a group of London local authorities *placing 1 per cent of their* assets into small local firms.

Personal pension holders have much greater freedom to invest ethically. *Friends Provi*dent, NPI, Scottish Equitable, *Clerical Medical* and *Skandia* all offer ethical funds within their pension range. The issue for the light green investor is investment risk — do you want all your pension money in just *one* UK-based ethical fund? Many advisers will recommend that you mix an ethical fund with a with-profits fund that invests across a broad *range of investments*.

CHARITIES

Charities cannot invest ethically for similar reasons to occupational pension schemes but can modify investments if they conflict with the charity's objectives. So a cancer charity can stop its funds going into tobacco firms.

Going ethical need not cut your returns

Unit and investment trusts, the most advanced part of the green investing industry, offer 32 funds from 20 providers.

Like all unit trusts, performance has varied widely, but the average return has been similar to the average unit trust. In other words, going ethical has not meant poorer returns for investors.

The funds are biased towards smaller companies, and as they are largely invest*ed in the UK, they qualify for* tax-free Pep investment. Ethi*cal funds fall into two groups*: those that avoid non-ethical investments, and those that proactively invest in environment-enhancing companies.

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TSB Environmental	55.1%
Friends Prov Stew'ship	49.0%

Source: Holden Meehan

CONTACTS

Ethical Investment Research Service: 0171 735 1351
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هدية من الأهل

هكذا من الإصل

Experts can help when staff are employed

Martin Powell turned to the experts for advice when his business needed to employ staff for the first time (John Givens writes).

Mr Powell, 39, who runs The Wordsmiths Press, a publishing and public relations company in Bristol, and fellow director Louise Clements, 48, decided the responsibility of being an employer warranted calling in specialists.

The pair asked a solicitor to put together a contract of employment for Sarah Benefield, pictured right with Mr Powell, when the 23-year-old joined the company as an account manager two years ago and also asked their accountant to deal with her salary and deductions.

Mr Powell, a former news editor of the *Bristol Evening Post* says they called in the experts because they took their responsibilities as employers seriously and also wanted to make sure the company was protected.

"Apart from wanting to do things properly for Sarah as our first employee we also wanted to make sure the company was protected against losing clients if she ever moved on.

"Going through the process and getting our accountant to deal with the salary side of things was very worthwhile and has been useful since as we have grown and taken on further staff".

CHRIS ISON/SWNS

Funding a final fling

COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Personal Finance Deputy Editor

One of the great British new year traditions, along with fighting through the January sales and eating cold turkey, is to visit the travel agent to book a summer holiday.

No sooner has pre-Christmas advertising for power drills and compilation CDs ended, than it is followed by the tour operators with their television onslaught, usually backed by discounts and special offers.

There is a section of the British population, however, that misses all this because it is already abroad, enjoying winter sunshine in Spain, Portugal, Asia and the Caribbean. Most of these holidaymakers are retired and escape to the milder climes during the British winter months.

Those left behind may soon have the opportunity to join them, thanks to a scheme known as the shared appreciation mortgage. This allows elderly people to realise much of the equity in their home and, if they so wish, go on a spending spree.

A cheaper and simpler way of releasing equity from your home is to sell the family house and move to a bungalow. That way you are under no obligation to your lender and you have the comfort of a lump sum in the bank.

Many older people, though, are reluctant to do this because they do not want the distress of moving away from friends and the pain of selling off furniture and belongings built up over many years.

In a shared appreciation mortgage, the lender gives a loan or a lump sum in return for a proportion of any rise in the value of the home until death.

It is more of a gamble for the home-owner than the lender, as once it is taken out, it is difficult to move and expensive to buy out of the arrangement.

The lender takes the risk that the property market may collapse and it will make no money. However, lenders have a vested interest in offering these products only in areas where house prices are buoyant, or likely to recover quickly.

The new-style mortgage appears to be an improvement on the home income plan, widely sold in the 1980s, which involved a borrower taking out a mortgage and putting the proceeds into bonds.

The bond income was supposed to pay both the mortgage and supplement a pension, but as interest rates rose and house prices fell debts mounted up and some pensioners became homeless.

Hard sell

THE investment industry has been eloquent in its indignation at the £50,000 lifetime contributions limit for the Individual Savings Account. It objects to punishing thrift.

It has been less vocal about the need for a thorough review of the charges that financial services providers — and in particular life offices — will make for the new Isa. Those who took out personal pensions with high fees in the 1980s know through bitter experience charges can wipe out the tax relief.

The 350,000 to 750,000 people with more than £50,000 already invested will be financially astute enough to minimise their exposure to tax well before 1999. The real debate now should be over how to stop the remaining 5.6 million potential Isa holders, many of whom are not financially sophisticated, from being sold uncompetitive products.

Duties of the job provider

John Givens concludes his two-part report on points to consider when employing staff

PERSONNEL 2

Taking on staff for the first time involves more than just choosing a person and agreeing a salary and a start date, because there are numerous responsibilities that an employer has to shoulder.

The law says that all employees should have basic rights and protection when in someone's employment, no matter how small the company is, and failure to play to the rules could get you in real trouble.

So, before you rush off and start building your business empire by recruiting staff, make sure you understand the extra work and responsibility that entails. They come on board at the same time as the employee.

■ Contract of employment

Employees are protected by a contract of employment which need not necessarily be in written form, as the law provides basic rights to workers.

However, if you do employ someone for more than one month you must supply them within two months of beginning the employment with a statement of the main terms of the contract.

This will typically include basics like the employee's name, job title and when the employment started, as well as more detailed information like the rate of pay and how often it is paid, working hours, arrangements for overtime payments, details of holiday entitlement, the notice period which must be given if the employment is to be ended and the disciplinary procedures.

The remuneration package is between you, as the employer, and the staff member and although there is no minimum wage in the UK at the moment, if you are paying a very low rate to a worker you might find the Low Pay Unit on your back.

Also, men and women must get the same rate of pay for doing the same kind of work and for work of equal value.

■ Equal opportunities

It is illegal to refuse employment to a person because of colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, marital status or sexual orientation, except in exceptional circumstances, so you must make sure any opportunities you have are open to everybody who has the ability and experience to do the job.

■ Tax and National Insurance

As an employer you are responsible for deducting tax and National Insurance payments from the money you pay your staff and passing the funds on to the tax office.

You must also provide each worker with a pay slip, showing the income tax and NI deductions as well as a running total on how much each person has paid during the tax year, which runs from April 6 to April 5 the following year.

■ Sickness pay

Your workers are entitled to be paid if they are absent from work through illness. It might be that you decide to implement your own sick pay scheme where, for example, you agree to pay an employee full salary for a certain amount of time while they are away incapacitated.

However, even if you do not pay staff who are off sick, you will still be responsible for administering their Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) entitlement.

Everyone who is too ill to work for more than four consecutive days can claim SSP of up to £55.70 a week for a maximum of 28 weeks, assuming they have paid enough tax and National Insurance contributions in the past to qualify for the benefit.

As the employer you pay the money to the staff member and claim it back from the Department of Social Security.

■ Maternity leave and pay

If a member of staff becomes pregnant while in your employment she might be entitled to claim maternity pay and leave, as well as having her job protected so she can return to work after the baby has been born.

No matter how short a time an employee has been working for you, she will be able to take a minimum of 14 weeks maternity leave. Women who have worked for your company for more than six months can claim 18 weeks maternity leave.

Unlike Statutory Sick Pay, maternity pay must be covered by the employer, with the first six weeks being paid at a rate of 90 per cent of normal earnings and the rest at least at the same rate as SSP, currently £55.70 a week.

Expectant mothers who have been in your employment for more than two years can claim additional unpaid maternity absence, as long as the total amount of time taken does not exceed 40 weeks, with a maximum of 11 weeks being taken before the expected birth date.

When the mother returns to work she has the right to continue her employment in the same position and with the same terms and conditions of employment as she had before going off to have a baby.

■ Disciplinary procedures

The employer should set out in the contract or statement of employment what will happen if it becomes necessary to discipline a member of staff.

Unless it is a serious offence, like fighting, or a major breach of safety or security where the employer may be entitled to sack a worker on the spot, it is usual for an employer to introduce a series of warnings that will eventually lead to dismissal if the employee fails to put right a problem.

■ Unions

Everyone you employ has the right to belong to a union and the right not to be refused employment because they are a member of a union, or refuse to join one.

■ Employer's liability insurance

By law you must have liability insurance if you employ staff, even if it is just one person.

This policy covers the employees against accident in the place of work and the cost of the annual premium depends on the type of business you are running and the potential risks to staff.

■ Health and safety regulations

The regulations say that the employer must provide a safe environment for staff to work in.

The rules governing the UK's stringent health and safety requirements are long and complex and failure to comply could see your business shut down for a period of time until you put right a problem identified by a health and safety officer.

Most health and safety problems, such as telephone wires lying across the floor where they could trip people up, can be easily resolved, while others, like a building being declared unsafe, are harder to put right.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Trust sector gift for the fanatic

A new book, *Put Not Your Trust in Money*, could make an ideal Christmas present for an investment fanatic. The book tells the story of the UK investment trust sector from its first day in March 1868 through to the multibillion-pound industry of today. Available from the Association of Investment Trust Companies, priced at £25 (plus £10 p&p). Call 0171-431 5222 to place an order.

■ A credit card in aid of The Haven Trust, the breast cancer charity, has been launched in conjunction with the Bank of Scotland. Money will be donated with every transaction, at no additional cost to the cardholder. The Haven Trust MasterCard has an APR of 19.9 per cent (21.8 per cent for cash advances). The annual fee for the first year is being waived. For an application form, call 0800 716097 and quote ref 007G.

■ Alliance & Leicester's money-back credit card, which was launched in March this year, is offering cardholders an incentive to increase their credit card spending. A&L will give double money back on purchases made in the UK at five major retailers: BP, Interflora, Index and Index Extra, Ticketmaster and ATS, from February 1, 1998. Double money back is 1 per cent on all purchases up to £3,000 per annum and 2 per cent on all purchases over £3,000 pa. The normal money back rates are 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent. For those who pay monthly interest on their credit card, the A&L will also be paying back 5 per cent of all interest payments as a money back benefit from February 1, 1998. Features of the card such as the APR of 17.9 per cent and no annual fee remain the same. For more details, call 0500 838383.

■ Now is an opportune moment to buy property at a competitive price with a view to renting in the high season of February, when demand for rental accommodation increases, according to Ludlow Thompson, the estate agent. A guide has been produced which covers all stages of investing in residential property from acquisition and financing to letting and management. Free copies are available from Ludlow Thompson, Freepost, London E1 8BR.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Woolwich 0800 222200	Card Saver	Instant	£50	7.00	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	7.25	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£2,500	7.15	Yly
Alliance & Leic 0845 608 8860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Northern Rock 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.90	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Fix for Six	6 month	£5,000	7.75	F/OM
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 2031650	Base Plus	1 year	£2,001	8.00	OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.85	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.85	Yly
Mansfield BS 01246 202055		5 year	£500	7.75	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 01274 555332		5 year	£1,000	7.75	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12

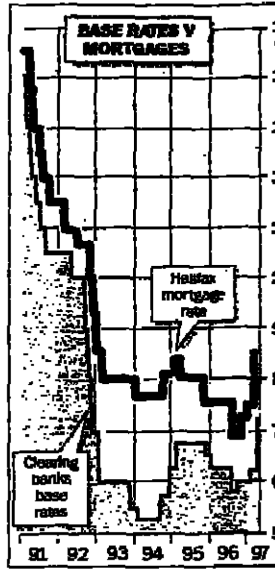
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

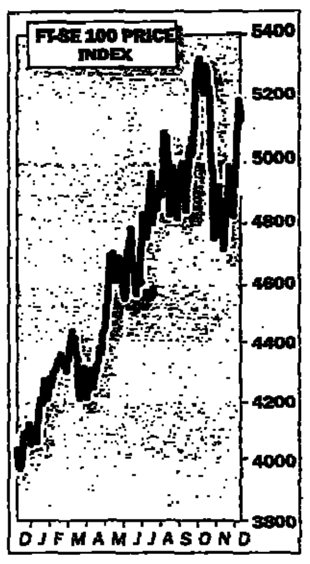
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Capital One Direct 0800 216252	12.90%	£189.48	£166.54
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499***	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*	6.75	5.40	4.05	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond	6.75	5.40	4.05	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. [illegible] reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross [illegible] **£100,000 [illegible] +0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ [illegible] cred in full. ‡£500-100,000 earn higher rates. [illegible]

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Scottish Widows ..Level	£ 9,240	£10,270	£11,670
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,044	£10,136	£11,564
Canada Lf ....Level	£ 9,034	£10,130	£11,620
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 8,988	£10,050	£11,494
Sun Life ....Level	£ 8,922	£10,049	£11,569

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,386	£ 9,205	£10,649
Generali ....Level	£8,227	£ 9,159	£10,437
Canada Life ....Level	£8,325	£ 9,151	£10,353
Scottish Widows ..Level	£8,410	£ 9,090	£10,100
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,230	£ 8,993	£10,104

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Scottish Widows ..Level	£8,049	£8,549	£ 9,226
Generali ....Level	£7,855	£8,512	£ 9,412
Prudential ....Level	£7,901	£8,445	£ 9,178
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£7,838	£8,435	£ 9,277
Equitable Lf..........Level	£7,807	£8,384	£ 9,197

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at December 11, 1997

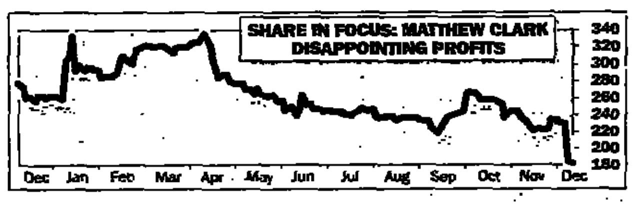
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	5,000	AIG Life	6.38
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
	5,000	AIG Life	6.29
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.65
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.06
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.15
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.55

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	123.00	7.620	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	152.00	7.650	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	169.75	7.660	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	169.75	7.660	100.42	1,000
Coventry	*12.125%*	*157.75*	7.690	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	153.25	7.670	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	179.00	7.470	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	143.00	7.520	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	168.00	7.510	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	172.75	7.450	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	157.75	7.450	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	115.50	7.580	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	151.25	7.930	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	183.00	7.450	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	173.00	7.730	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	165.00	7.650	100.14	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source:* NatWest Markets



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.2.00
Nationwide 0800 302010	5.75	*to £300k*	90	*2.35% discount for 2 years*
Britannia *0800 526350*	5.74	no min or *max*	80	Fixed for 2 yrs
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mth, *3% disc-6 mths*
Northern Rock 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.2.00

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	1.20	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-6 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.99	£15-100k	95	7.45% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 *mth* 3% dsc-6 mth
Northern Rock 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.2.00

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	1.35	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths, 3% disc 6 mths
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	£15k+	95	Fixed to 1.1.99

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482)

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AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE
0131 339 9191

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	566.90	599.90	- 4.30	...
UK Equity	795.40	841.70	- 2.80	...
Property	455.30	481.90	+ 0.90	...
Fixed Interest	371.60	393.30	+ 2.70	...
Money	280.90	297.30	+ 0.20	...
International	433.90	459.20	-11.70	...

ABBEY LIFE
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL
01202 292373

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Custodian S4	217.40	228.90	- 1.30	...
Ethical S4	178.00	187.40	- 1.00	...
International S4	217.20	228.70	- 3.70	...
Protected Gth S4	131.20	138.20	- 0.50	...
Asian Pacific	153.10	161.20	- 4.50	...
European S4	261.60	275.40	- 3.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	448.40	472.10	- 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	312.00	328.50	- 0.80	...
Man Ser 4	853.70	898.70	- 5.40	...
Conv Ser 4	369.20	388.70	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	368.80	388.30	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	445.10	468.60	+ 4.90	...
American Ser 4	826.30	869.80	-10.60	...
High Inc Ser 4	978.80	1030.40	+ 1.20	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	259.70	273.40	+ 2.90	...
Japan Ser 4	224.80	236.70	- 9.70	...

ALBANY LIFE
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ
01707 42311

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd Acc	2221.90	2338.70	+ 1.20	...
European Fd Acc	560.70	590.20	- 7.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	628.40	661.50	+ 6.70	...
Gtd Money Acc	375.70	395.40	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	806.30	848.70	- 9.10	...
Ini Fxd Int Acc	379.40	399.40	+ 2.20	...
Japan Fund	202.10	212.70	- 7.10	...
N American Acc	508.70	535.40	- 6.50	...
Prop Fd Acc	512.90	539.80	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1338.40	1408.80	- 5.90	...

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL
01793 514514

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Dep Acc	422.20	444.50	- 0.50	...
Equity Acc	1911.70	2012.40	-17.00	...
Property Acc	744.10	783.30	+ 0.70	...
Far East Acc	245.90	258.90	-11.80	...
Managed Capital	665.20	700.30	- 8.90	...
-do- Acc	1457.70	1534.50	- 7.00	...
Overseas Acc	1406.90	1481.00	-13.20	...
Gilt Edged Acc	626.80	659.80	+12.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	1350.20	1421.30	-25.80	...
Amer Man Acc	557.40	586.80	- 9.80	...
Amer Prop Acc	116.70	122.90	...	...
Distribution Bonds	28.00	29.50	+ 0.10	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks
01494 463463

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Reserve Ser 6	190.60	200.60	- 1.00	...
Balced Ser 6	963.30	1014.00	-12.30	...
Opportunity Ser 6	220.20	231.70	- 3.20	...
Distribution Ser 6	114.20	120.20	+ 0.30	6.14
UK Equities Ser 6	1495.50	1574.20	-16.80	
Higher Inc Ser 6	1582.00	1665.20	-10.80	...
North Amer Ser 6	674.10	709.50	-25.20	...
Far East Ser 6	438.10	461.10	-19.50	...
Europe Ser 6	568.00	597.80	- 9.70	...
Intnl Ser 6	697.10	733.70	-19.50	...
Property Ser 6	643.30	677.10	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	536.20	564.40	+ 4.90	...
Ind-Lnkd Ser 56	223.50	235.30	+ 2.20	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	336.50	354.20	+ 0.40	...

BARCLAYS LIFE
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB
0181 534 5544

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc	1273.70	1340.80	- 8.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	302.60	320.10	+ 2.60	...
Euro Opportunity	309.70	327.60	- 0.90	...
North Amer Opp	292.20	309.10	- 7.10	...
Far East Opp	169.00	178.70	- 6.40	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	178.80	188.20	+ 2.60	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	217.10	229.70	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int	258.60	273.50	+ 3.20	...
Cash	178.40	188.60	+ 0.30	6.49
Overseas	280.50	296.80	- 5.70	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	467.80	492.50	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	915.00	963.40	+ 7.70	...
Property	299.60	315.40	- 0.20	...
Money Market	282.60	297.50	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	375.60	395.40	+ 4.70	...
Japan	250.00	263.20	- 7.00	...
North America	260.00	273.70	- 6.30	...
International	433.40	456.30	- 8.70	...
European	396.00	416.90	- 1.10	...
Far East	125.10	131.70	- 4.70	...

CANADA LIFE
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
01707 51122

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	436.00	459.00	- 2.70	...
Property	293.60	309.10	...	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	298.60	314.40	+ 2.70	...
Equity	550.90	579.90	- 4.00	...
Cash	241.20	253.90	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	510.40	537.30	- 2.80	...
CLife Intl Fd	360.10	379.10	- 5.30	...
Managed Fund	930.90	979.90	- 5.80	...
Property Fund	595.20	626.50	- 1.70	...
Equity Fund	1359.50	1431.00	- 9.80	...
Gilt Edged Fd	770.50	811.10	+ 7.00	...
Deposit Fund	372.40	392.00	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd	608.40	638.80	- 2.80	...
International	573.20	603.40	- 8.40	...

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	206.10	217.00	...	...
Managed Fund	865.00	910.60	+ 6.20	...
Equity Fund	544.90	573.60	+ 3.90	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	381.20	401.30	- 3.60	...
Ruby	205.10	215.90	- 2.20	...
Emerald	174.80	184.00	+ 1.50	...
Equity	479.30	504.60	- 3.50	...
Property	255.90	269.40	+ 0.90	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	259.90	273.60	+ 3.10	...
Indexed Secs	206.70	217.60	+ 2.30	
Cash	210.20	221.30	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	372.60	392.30	- 5.00	...
Far East	220.80	232.50	- 6.70	...
International	283.10	298.00	- 6.70	...
Special Sits	520.20	547.60	+ 4.00	...
Ind Income	441.90	465.40	- 0.70	...
European	498.30	524.60	- 7.90	...
Japanese	92.40	97.30	- 2.50	...
SE Asia	309.50	325.80	-18.90	...
With Profits Reg	196.30	206.80	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	198.30	208.80	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	450.50	474.30	- 4.10	...
Equity	609.90	642.00	- 4.20	...
Property	242.50	255.20	+ 1.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	342.90	360.90	+ 4.60	...
Index Linked	223.60	235.40	+ 2.80	...
Cash	292.30	307.70	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	459.40	483.60	- 5.90	...
Far East Acc	232.40	245.10	- 9.90	...
International Acc	347.10	365.40	- 7.80	...
Special Sits	780.80	821.90	+ 6.80	...
European Flex	715.00	752.70	-12.10	...

COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2)	114.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	309.30	325.60	- 4.70	...
Managed S1	310.00	326.40	- 3.40	...
Adventurous S1	237.00	249.50	- 5.00	...
Managed (2)	210.60	221.70	- 2.20	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	401.80	422.60	- 5.30	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (S)	119.20	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2)	113.30	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed (2)	*128.10*	...	*- 1.60*	...
Equity Mngd (2)	128.80	...	- 2.20	...
Adventurous (2)	113.20	...	- 3.20	...
Bristol & West (2)	115.50	...	+ 0.20	...

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH
01722 413366

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	414.50	436.40	- 5.10	
UK Equity	593.30	624.60	- 3.50	
Stewardship	492.90	518.90	+ 0.40	
Overseas Equity	369.30	389.30	- 7.00	...
North American	239.40	252.00	- 4.20	...
Pacific Basin	129.70	136.60	- 7.60	
European	371.90	391.50	- 8.30	...
Property	207.10	218.10	+ 1.20	
Fixed Interest	301.60	317.50	+ 2.80	...
Index Linked	205.20	216.10	+ 2.30	...
Cash	226.50	238.50	+ 0.30	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	666.10	701.10	+ 6.40	
Managed	942.70	992.30	- 8.90	...
Deposit	387.00	407.30	+ 0.40	...
Property	577.40	607.70	...	...
American	670.70	706.00	-12.90	...
Australian	626.40	659.30	-19.10	...
European	892.30	939.20	-17.30	...
Income Acc	1094.00	1151.50	+ 2.30	...
-do- Dist	581.20	611.70	+ 1.60	4.20
International	393.90	414.60	- 6.50	...
Japan Smaller	250.10	263.20	- 4.80	...
Singapore & Mal	284.60	299.50	-21.00	...
Tokyo Fund	530.70	558.60	-10.60	...
UK Equity	840.40	884.60	- 4.60	...
CCM Vangu Mg	1005.50	1058.40	- 3.60	...

GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GT Plan Far East	243.50	256.40	-12.10	...
GT Plan Wwide	595.00	626.40	- 9.80	...

GAN LIFE & PENSIONS
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Portfolio Acc	833.50	833.50	- 7.10	...
-do- Inv A	833.40	877.40	- 7.50	...
UK Equity	573.70	604.00	- 1.00	...
Gilt Plus	243.80	256.70	+ 2.50	...
Managed	380.60	400.70	- 3.30	...

GENERAL ACCIDENT
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	275.90	290.40	- 3.00	...
Unitised Profit	169.20	178.10	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	426.70	449.10	- 3.80	...
Fixed Int	238.70	251.10	+ 2.30	...
Index-Linked	199.40	209.80	+ 2.30	...
Cash Deposit	195.60	205.70	+ 0.10	...
Property	200.50	210.90	+ 0.20	...
International	210.90	221.90	- 3.00	...
American	269.90	284.00	- 3.50	...
Japan	172.00	181.00	- 4.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	176.20	185.30	- 4.30	...
European	257.30	270.80	- 4.00	...
Pacific Fund	201.50	212.00	-15.30	...
Com Life	176.10	185.50	+ 0.70	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	630.40	663.60	- 6.90	...
Managed Initial	385.30	405.60	- 4.50	...
Equity Ord	1079.20	1136.00	- 9.90	...
Equity Inst	659.60	694.30	- 6.30	...

HAMBRO ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840080

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	224.20	236.00	- 0.40	...
-do- Pens	291.70	307.10	- 0.90	...
UK Equity	256.90	270.40	- 0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	300.80	311.30	- 1.00	...
Far East	138.30	145.50	-10.60	...

LONDON LIFE
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL
0117 984 7777

OLD MUTUAL
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA
01256 768888

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fund Acc	424.70	448.00	- 4.90	...
Fxd Interest Acc	305.90	322.70	+ 3.70	...
International Acc	297.10	313.90	- 5.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	244.40	257.40	+ 3.50	...
Deposit	220.90	232.70	+ 0.10	...
Managed	382.50	402.80	- 5.80	...
Worldwide	128.20	135.00	- 4.60	...
Pen Worldwide	136.60	143.90	- 5.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	225.20	239.70	- 2.40	
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	974.00	1025.30	- 1.70	

Small investors shrug off crisis

Matthew Wall reports on progress at the investment clubs Weekend Money follows

In recent weeks headlines have contained very few good tidings for investors, with news of Far Eastern currency crises, potential global deflation and imminent market slumps. If plunging indices have managed to send shudders through huge multibillion-pound investment funds, then surely any gains made by small investors over the year must have been wiped out by the recent turmoil?

The experience of two investment clubs would indicate otherwise. After the worldwide market turbulence in the autumn, *The Times* returned to the Victoria Investment Club in Truro, Cornwall, and the Maydown Mergers Investment Club in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, to find that the big picture is not necessarily replicated in miniature. Victoria Club chairman Derek Richards explains: "When one part of the world catches a cold it seems that all the major indices are marked down in the rest of the world. However, there is no immediate effect on smaller companies as you do not get the automatic writedown. Their share prices are far more affected by underlying performance rather than external global economic factors."

At one point last month the FTSE 100 index, which measures the performance of the largest UK companies, was down 432 points. Derek Richards assessed the club's portfolio of 13 stocks, made up predominantly of smaller, reputedly higher-risk companies. The prices of 11 stocks had not moved, one was up 3½p and another 6½p.

Since we last visited Victoria Investment Club, there has been a moderate shuffling of the portfolio, which stands at £26,000, representing a notional profit of more than £5,000. The fund is divided into units, with members owning units in proportion to the size of their investment. The unit value is 1.62 compared with 0.82 two years ago.

Greenwich Resources, the mining company, was heaved overboard in October after eight years of underperformance. The stock had been retained as a warning that buying shares without research is a fool's game. Luckily this worst performing stock had been their smallest investment, with a loss of £354 on an initial investment of £498. The sale of Graseby, on the other hand, gave rise to a £417 profit. Other potential candidates for the chop are Television Corporation and Gowrings, since both companies are showing a loss and show no immediate signs of a reversal in fortune. Recent purchases include Taylor Nelson, the market research company. The club was impressed by its investment in developing economies, such as the Czech Republic, and its lack of debt and strong cash-flow. The financial soundness of the company especially pleased the club's banking members, who have a hatred of debt.

Another recent purchase is Isotron, a healthcare technology company bought in September. After an immediate drop in share price the stock is showing a modest profit. The star performer continues to be Robert Walters, the recruitment consultancy specialising in the computer industry. In October the stock was showing a profit of more than £1,400. That has leapt to more than £2,000.

CRISPIN RODWELL

Decision time: the members of the Maydown Mergers Investment Club check their investments at one of their regular meetings

Derek Richards and other club members continue to believe that looking for directors buying shares in their own companies is a good way of selecting potential stocks worthy of closer inspection. The club also sticks to its "small is beautiful" philosophy, believing that companies with market capitalisations of £100 million or less are not necessarily riskier than blue-chip stocks, so long as you do your homework before buying.

The Maydown Mergers Investment Club, whose 19 members all work for DuPont, the chemicals company, has had a rougher ride during the recent market turbulence. Five of the 12 stocks in their technology-orientated portfolio are showing a loss. But overall, thanks largely to a strong performance from Mayflower, the Midlands engineering company, the club is showing a notional profit of nearly £700. The current value of the portfolio is nearly £14,000.

In spite of operating a stop-loss system, where shares would normally be sold if they fell below by a certain percentage, the club did not panic when the market fell, but realised that a fundamental belief in the companies invested in had to be backed up with long-term loyalty. Recent purchases include Galen Holdings, the drug manufacturer and pharmacy business based in Northern Ireland. The company went for a listing on the stock exchange in summer and has not disappointed its investors. Another Northern Irish company, Powerscreen, continues to perform well.

Club chairman Mike Carroll says: "We feel we've scored with local companies. We've seen record profits announced only to be ignored by the London-based media. Often local news gets passed over by the big City wheeler-dealers and that leaves room for us to move in. You can't beat information from local people who work at the companies you're thinking of investing in."

A tax-free place in the sun

Susan Emmett looks at the best way to save tax if you quit these shores in damp December

Thoughts of a tropical beach in mid-winter turn many a mind towards sunnier climes

Cold weather, bouts of flu and long dark nights are all good reasons to leave these shores during the winter. But the prospect of warmer weather is not the only benefit for workers who plan a temporary exit. Expats have a lot more flexibility in their investment strategies than their UK counterparts if they make sound financial arrangements.

For those planning to work abroad in the new year, parking your money offshore might be a good way to ensure you have a decent nest egg to greet you on your return. The strong pound may mean that the value of the money you send home is less than you could wish but even if your new salary matches your UK earnings, you may be able to stow away what would otherwise have gone to the taxman.

Anyone who works outside the UK for more than 365 days will not normally pay UK income tax provided they do not spend more than a sixth of the time they are working abroad in this country. This works out at 62 days a year.

As with any investment, deciding where to place your money depends on your attitude towards risk. But if you are moving abroad, there are other considerations to make when choosing a suitable vehicle. Distance and a difference in time zones may make it hard to keep track of investments. James Higgins, a financial adviser at Chamberlain de Broe, says there are only two real choices — equities or deposits. "Choosing the right one depends on your attitude towards risk." If risk is to be avoided at all costs, then anything equity-linked can be ignored. The next step would be comparing bank rates. Mr Higgins said offshore building society accounts can offer attractive gross rates.

However, if income tax in your future home country is going to be a problem, a number of Jersey-based institutions such as Rothschild Asset Management and Guinness Flight Fund offer "accumulator funds". These are straightforward deposit funds in which investors buy shares. Interest is added to the price of the share. Rothschild pay 6.43 per cent a year and Guinness 6.84 per cent. But unlike conventional deposits, investors can defer tax until until the funds are cashed in and will only pay tax on the growth of each unit. The amount of tax paid is determined by the new country of residence.

For those ready to make a longer term investment and prepared to take on a bit more risk by tying their money into equities, guaranteed trackers might be appropriate. Over the last couple of years index-trackers have become very popular and a few even offer basic guarantees. Tracker funds are designed to reproduce the return you would receive if you had shares in all the companies in the FTSE 100 or a similar index.

Mr Higgins suggests AIB Govett's safeguard fund which is available in offshore as well as onshore versions. If the market should tumble, the index-tracker can fall a maximum of 2 per cent. If the index rises, the tracker should follow it up. For someone going abroad for five years and just wanting to leave an investment behind, it has the advantage of simplicity.

There is no need to be in constant contact with a fund manager and keeping track of what the markets are doing back home. However, it is worth bearing in mind that they may not perform as well as a managed fund.

For bolder investors, Mr Higgins generally favours investment trusts. Those investing over a five-year period or longer, might consider broadly spread general funds such as Personal Assets, Fleming Claverhouse, City of London and Alliance Trusts.

■ *For guidance on establishing your new tax status, the Inland Revenue has a 60-page leaflet (IR20) with all the rules on leaving and returning to the UK. It is available from your local tax office or from the Revenue on 0171 438 6622.*

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NICK RAY/SWNS

From acres to shares — what the experts give

Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere, claims that his 18-month-old son George suffers the same treatment as cobblers' children. "Their father lets them go unshod, and I haven't sorted out any investments for George yet," he says.

So far Mr Hooper has opened a Smart-2-Save account with the Nationwide as a short-term home for any money given to George. However, this Christmas Mr Hooper and his wife Pip intend to give George the five-acre paddock attached to the family home near Bath. The paddock is let to a farmer for sheep grazing.

Mr Hooper said: "The paddock earns about £500 in rent a year, which can be invested for George. It makes good sense because it will make use of his personal tax allowances, and he is very fond of the sheep."

Douglas Gardner of Thomson, has never given financial presents to his two sons, Daniel and Lewis. But he has set up two trusts for each boy to provide money for educational fees.

Michael MacDougall has also avoided financial presents for birthdays and Christmas. However, for his son Robert's twenty-first birthday Mr MacDougall gave him shares in Inn Business, which owns 514 pubs and restaurants. He said: "He was very interested because I gave him a list of all the pubs. I hope to join him in testing them out."

Jill Insley concludes our two-part series on investing for children

Quick presents that will last for years

Teletubby dolls might thrill toddlers on Christmas Day, but you can be sure that their allure will prove short-lived. A financial present will offer longer lasting satisfaction, need not be dull, and best of all (for the parent at least!), does not involve hours of tramping round the shops.

Cash is by far the most popular financial offering as far as children are concerned, but if you want your gift to last beyond Boxing Day, it is probably best to give money that is already invested.

■ **Friendly society bonds:** Although children are not eligible for personal equity plans (Peps) or tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), they benefit from several tax perks that enable them to be tax efficient savers from birth.

Douglas Gardner of Thomson's Financial Planning, a Leeds independent financial adviser, often recommends friendly society bonds to people who want to save on behalf of children. These are tax-free savings schemes, which can accept premiums of up to £25 a month or an annual lump sum of £270. (Some friendly societies accept higher premiums, but the extra sums are invested in a fund where capital gains and dividends are taxed).

While the tax-free investment limits are low and the products are often criticised for having comparatively high charges, bonds can produce sizeable returns if the money is invested for long enough.

Someone who invested £100 every Christmas for the last ten years in a Tunbridge Wells Baby Bond (using the TW with-profits fund) could now be watching their child decide how to spend £1,830 of tax-free cash.

To qualify for the tax-free benefits, premiums must be left invested in the friendly society's tax exempt investment fund for ten years or three quarters of the bond's original term. A bond which is encashed earlier than this becomes liable for tax. Children's bonds are written in the name of the child, but can be held in trust by the person contributing the premiums until the bond reaches maturity.

■ **National Savings Children's Bonds:** these also provide tax-free returns, but Graham Hooper of Chase de Vere Investments, the Bath independent financial adviser, is not impressed by the bonds' current yield: "Historically they have been a "must-buy" for children, but with the interest rate at 6.75 per cent gross, they are paying only slightly more than building society accounts," he said.

The rate is actually fixed at 5 per cent gross a year, plus a bonus of 11 per cent on the bond's fifth anniversary. Money can be withdrawn earlier, but no interest is paid if the bonds are redeemed in the first year. Between £25 and £1,000 can be invested in Children's Bonds for children under the age of 16.

■ **Premium Bonds:** these offer a slightly more exciting alternative for children who like the idea of betting. Ernie, the computer that sorts out winning bond numbers, pays out about 500,000 tax-free cash prizes every month, including a jackpot of £1 million. Minimum investment is £100, and bonds must be held for one month to be eligible for prizes. They can be encashed for their face value provided eight working days' notice is given.

■ **Savings accounts:** older children may prefer to have their own bank or building society account. Provided the society has a local branch, the child will get used to paying in pocket money and cash presents, and will be able to check the progress of his or her savings.

These can also pay gross interest provided the child is a non-tax payer. Children are entitled to their own personal tax allowances, which means they can earn capital gains of £6,500 during the current tax year without paying any tax.

The treatment of income is slightly more complicated. To prevent parents avoiding tax by putting their own investments in their children's names, the Inland Revenue limits the amount of tax-free income that can be earned on parental gifts to £100. As soon as that limit is exceeded, the whole lot is taxed at the parent's marginal rate of tax.

If you are aged nought, you should be 100 per cent invested in equities

Investments given by anyone else only incur tax on income above £4,045. Income tax at the composite rate of 20 per cent is normally deducted at source from bank accounts. But children can apply to have their interest paid gross by filling in the Inland Revenue form — IR85 (the bank or building society should provide this).

Building societies tend to pay better rates of interest than banks. Nationwide Building Society's Smart-2-Save account for children up to the age of 11, and its Smart accounts for children aged 12 to 17, pays 7.2 per cent gross on sums of £1 or more. Britannia Building Society's FirstSaver account, for children up to the age of 18, pays 7 per cent gross on a minimum deposit of £1.

However, the rate of interest paid is probably of little consequence given that many children's accounts will only hold small amounts. Most children are more likely to be interested in the "freebies" that come with their accounts.

The Bank of Scotland Supersaver account, for children up to the age of 12, comes with an organiser and calculator, magazine, piggybank, squirrel or backpack.

The Halifax Little Xtra Club provides a moneybox, bike sticker and badge, magazine, and birthday and Christmas cards. Teenagers might prefer the cinema tickets and voucher book that come with Midland Bank's LIVE!Cash account for children aged 11 to 15.

■ **Equity-based investments:** Parents and grandparents who want to provide real growth potential should consider unit and investment trusts, or even shares.

Mr Hooper says that young investors are ideally suited to investing in equity-based funds: "If you are nought years old, you should be 100 per cent invested in equities. Even if the market falls, it is bound to have improved by the time you are 18!" he says.

On that basis, Mr Hooper recommends a wide range of unit trusts, from United Kingdom blue-chip funds for more conservative babies, to emerging markets funds for those who appreciate a roller-coaster ride. Michael MacDougall, head of private clients at Waters Lunniss, the East Anglian broker, recommends investment trusts with a wide geographical spread such as RIT Capital Partners or Henderson Technology.

RIT Capital Partners has a good performance record, coming third in the International Growth sector over three years and second over five years. Henderson Technology has been running for less than a year, but offers the advantage of appealing to little boffins.

Both trusts are selling at substantial discounts to their net asset value — 16.7 per cent for RIT Capital Partners, and 12.3 per cent for Henderson technology — enabling investors to buy more assets for their money.

This means that the share price is currently lower than the underlying value of the trust, which advisers often regard as an opportunity to buy relatively cheaply.

Mr MacDougall says it is difficult to provide a sensible spread when investing directly in shares. A parent or grandparent may therefore be disappointed with the returns their gift produces for their offspring.

However, a Manchester United or Tottenham Hotspur fan is likely to be delighted at finding a share certificate from his favourite club in his Christmas stocking — and may well benefit from some capital gains as well.

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Fresh cheer in Isa proposal

ROBIN MAYES

Like many homeowners who have been using Peps to pay off interest-only mortgages, Margaret Lawlor was pleased to hear the Government was reconsidering its proposal to limit contributions into individual savings accounts (Isa) to £50,000 when they are introduced in 1999.

The 36-year old marketing executive is getting married in February and hopes to buy a larger home in south London with her fiancé, Russell Williams, who is a sales manager. The ceiling on contributions would make Isas unsuitable as the sole vehicle for repaying mortgages over £240,000.

Ms Lawlor said: "The £50,000 limit is not a lot for your lifetime's savings and is unfair if you want to use the ISA to pay off a mortgage, particularly if your live in London or the South East."

Safer lifestyles win out

Sara McConnell and Marianne Curphey report on the factors that determine mortgage applications

Why have you just been refused a mortgage? You will have no difficulty meeting the monthly repayments, you have a decent income and the property you want to buy is sound.

Unfortunately this is not enough, say lenders. They are looking for evidence that you not only can pay but will pay. John Harper, lending policy manager at Bradford & Bingley, said lenders are now more interested in checking the "covenant" of the borrower than they are in the property they are lending on.

As soon as your mortgage application lands on the desk of the underwriter at head office, you can expect your financial affairs to be examined with a fine-toothed comb, and your job history and personal life to be carefully scrutinised.

The safer your lifestyle and income are, the more likely it is that you will get your loan. So what will make or break your mortgage application? This is what lenders will be focusing on:

■ **JOB STABILITY:** This is key. Most mainstream lenders are looking for evidence that you are not in the habit of jumping from job to job. At Woolwich, for example, you normally have to have been in your current job for at least six months. If you have changed jobs recently, you will have to have been with your previous employer for 18 months. Others have similar rules. The Nationwide and Halifax both like borrowers to be in the same job for 12 months.

■ **INCOME EVIDENCE:** You will have to produce at least three months' salary slips or bank statements showing your salary. Such requirements obviously cause problems for the self-employed which is why lenders have traditionally been reluctant to lend to them. Many lenders, including the Abbey National, Woolwich, Bradford & Bingley and Birmingham Midshires normally demand to see three years' accounts. Perhaps surprisingly, the giant Halifax is more flexible. It says: "Ideally we'd like to see three years' accounts but we don't operate in an ideal world."

■ **DEPOSIT SIZE:** Most lenders no longer offer 100 per cent loans, having learnt a bitter lesson in the 1980s that house prices can go down as well as up. You will have to raise at least 5 per cent of the property's price, demonstrating that you have the will to save and build up a deposit.

■ **CREDITWORTHINESS:** When you apply for a loan lenders immediately carry out a credit search. This shows what credit cards, loans and other debts you have and if you pay them off regularly. It will also reveal whether you are on the electoral roll and whether you live where you say you do. Using this and other information, such as the amount of your deposit, you will get a credit score on a scale of one to 12, says John Harper at the Bradford & Bingley. To score 12 you would have to have a deposit of 20 per cent or more. You would be on the electoral roll, want to borrow less than the maximum allowed on your income, and have savings or other accounts with the lender. You would have a good record of handling credit responsibly and would have been a borrower previously.

■ **HOW CREDIT SCORING WORKS:** Each lender has its own system but the principles are the same. The more steady and traditional your lifestyle, and the bigger your deposit, the more kindly your application will be viewed. So, for example, a family man borrowing less than twice his annual salary will score more highly that a single man who has moved frequently within the last five years and who wants to borrow four and a half times his annual pay.

Patrick Bunton of London & Country Mortgages said: "The lenders like families because the head of the household has responsibilities to dependants as well as to himself and defaulting on a mortgage would have serious consequences. If you are divorced, you will probably be classed as single for credit-scoring purposes, and if you are a couple living together rather than married you will lose a couple of points.

"These credit scores are not set in stone, and if you are turned down by one lender it is worth ringing around to others, because they may have a less strict approach."

Some lenders buy an off-the-shelf credit scoring system and then compare it with their own system. This helps them to change and develop their risk assessment models.

The attitude they take to prospective borrowers will depend on their existing client base and the geographical area in which they operate.

Mr Bunton said: "Whenever a borrower has defaulted or their home has been repossessed, the lender will go back to the credit scoring system and feed in the data again.

"The aim is to try to weed out people who might not keep up to date with payments and not take them on as borrowers. This is why you may be penalised by a credit scoring system if you fit the profile of, a potential defaulter."

Aside from family stability, a good job, and a reasonable deposit, lenders will also want to check that you are on the electoral register. This is because they can use the voters' roll to find out if you have a poor credit record or have been to court and become credit blacklisted. If you are missing from this list you will probably be asked for proof of residence.

If you have never owned your own home before the lender will set store by a report from your current landlord. Your landlord will be asked whether you were a reliable tenant who paid the rent on time and adhered to the conditions of the contract.

Mr Bunton said: "Taken in isolation, the fact that you are single and a first-time buyer might not seem relevant, but each section of the credit scoring system contributes to the total."

Flexible home loan battle hots up

Lenders large and small are increasingly competing in what is the fastest growing area of the market — loans tailored to people working on freelance or on short-term contracts. Flexible mortgages make life easier for these people by allowing them to vary payments or even temporarily stop paying when times are lean. Borrowers can also pay off the loan early and save thousands of pounds in interest (Gavin Lumsden writes).

The first sign of this competition will come in January when Mortgage Trust, which pioneered the current account mortgage, the ultimate in flexible loans, strikes back at Virgin Direct which is opening its own current account mortgage (the Virgin One account) to the general public.

Until now Mortgage Trust's Current Account Mortgage (CAM) has only been made available to borrowers via brokers. However, the Epsom, Surrey, lender is launching its own direct marketing operation in Reigate with which it hopes to put Virgin in the shade.

Current account mortgages encourage borrowers to overpay, thus building up a reserve from which they can withdraw cash from later.

Tony Ward, head of Mortgage Trust, expects one in ten borrowers will have some kind of flexible mortgage in five years, a market in which it wants a 20 per cent share.

From January Mortgage Trust is raising the amount that can be borrowed with CAM by raising the loan-to-value from 75 per cent to 90 per cent. It is also considering introducing a capped rate, a ceiling beyond which the CAM's variable rate could not rise. This is currently 8.4 per cent.

Big lenders are flocking to the banner of flexibility too. In the New Year Nationwide will dip its toe in the market when its branches will start to offer the Flexi-Mortgage, a loan which until now has only been available through one of its subsidiaries, UCB Home Loans.

Flexi-Mortgage does not provide all the trimmings of a Virgin or Mortgage Trust account — there is no cheque book, for instance — but it does allow borrowers to vary or suspend their payments and make withdrawals of at least £2,000. Nationwide will charge a redemption fee if you repay the loan early.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Punitive Isa proposals prompt fears for retirement income

From Mr Gordon Sives

Sir, I have been a Tory all of my working life. However, I have to say that I have been very impressed with the Blair administration since it came to power earlier this year. Notwithstanding this comment, I do have cause for significant concern following coverage by the media of the Isa consultative document published on Tuesday, December 2.

First of all I would like to mention that I spent an unbroken career of 37 years working in the Merchant Navy and latterly in the exploration arm of a multinational oil company. At the age of 53 I was obliged to accept early retirement when the oil company for which I worked implemented a massive staff-downsizing programme. As a result of early retirement I was given an immediate but reduced occupational pension and, by way of compensation, a cash lump sum.

The consequence of receiving a reduced pension which had been built up over my working years is that I have invested the retirement lump sum in Tessas and Peps to supplement the reduced pension. Presumably a logical and thrifty move in providing security for the future although we are always reminded by investment managers of the risk that investments can fall as well as increase and that we may not get back the original sum invested. Fortunately, we have seen healthy increases in recent years.

In this context I have no complaint with the way things turned out and I am totally self-sufficient and independent of any state handouts. I do, however, object most strongly to the punitive measures being projected and the restrictions on the amount which may be transferred into an Isa, thus having to pay income tax on the remaining investment income. This will directly affect my standard of living with the resulting loss of disposable income. During my working career I saved for the future in order to secure my standard of living. However, I now see under these proposals a falling standard which I find most disturbing. Like many others in a similar situation. I suspect this may well have a strong influence on voting preferences at the next general election.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON SIVES,
Clovelly House,
Great Canfield,
Dunmow,
Essex.

From Mr John Butcher

Sir, In the Weekend Money section you invite reaction to the introduction of Isas and abandonment of Peps and Tessas.

I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms that this move represents retrospective taxation. People previously thought that they had two avenues for providing an income in retirement. Firstly, a pension scheme which offered tax relief on premium payments, but taxation of the income. Secondly Peps, which had to be funded out of income net of tax, but offered tax-free income. The second avenue was attractive because it offered more flexibility and one didn't sacrifice the capital sum by annuity purchase.

It is a complete breach of faith for a government now to change the rules in the way they have for accumulated sums over £50,000. How on earth do they expect people to plan their savings if there is no certainty that retrospective taxation of this sort will not occur!

Please use your best endeavours to get this unfair situation righted.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BUTCHER,
4 Park Lodge,
10 Meadowbank, SE3.

From Miss Joy Wingfield

Sir, I am a regular reader of your Weekend Money features and believe I am fairly well informed on how best to maximise my current earning power and provide for my retirement, during which I expect virtually no help from the State.

At 50, I am possibly at the peak of my earning power and I was building up a reasonable sum for my "third age", created, of course, entirely out of savings from my already taxed income. The current proposals for Isas and a ceiling of £50,000 leave me open-mouthed.

I have no dependents and no relatives who are likely to look after me should I need it. I am a senior manager in a multinational company, which makes me social class B, I think. I have a professional qualification and have worked my butt off (and still do) to secure two postgraduate degrees and make myself a highly marketable proposition.

How dare Geoffrey Robinson (with an alleged £12 million off-shore trust) suggest that I am "undeserving" of any further incentives to save or indeed the prospect of tax-free growth of my existing savings. How much long-term care does he think £50,000 will buy in 2027, when I shall be 80?

I shouldn't have to contemplate "off-shore" investment as described in your section. Why can't Britain recognise my thrift, hard work and self-sufficiency instead of suggesting that I should somehow feel guilty for trying to take control of my future and not be a burden on the public purse?

I expect little notice to be taken of my views (single people are presumed to be failed families, I find), but I would be pleased to take part in the consultation process on Isas, if only to be able to articulate my apparent minority view.

Yours faithfully,
JOY WINGFIELD,
37 Blandford Gardens,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham.

Paperwork for Pep investors

From Mr L. Holden

Sir, I would have thought that Mr Philip Neaverson ("Less paper, we agree", Weekend Money Letters, November 8) should count himself lucky to receive a full account of his wife's Pep every six months, even though there is information contained therein which does not interest him.

In my case, I had three Peps with National & Provincial, whose half-yearly reports were excellent and very informative, but, since the takeover by Abbey Naional, the latter's reports are abysmal, amounting to a half page only of A4 paper and this supposedly covers all the three Peps. Oh to be with Bradford & Bingley!

Yours faithfully,
L. HOLDEN,
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Talk of government volte-face has given savers hope

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ASHLEY COOMBS

Cap does not fit: Kamal Patheja dismisses the £50,000 limit on contributions to the Isa as just too arbitrary

Isa ceilings — isn't that just the limit

The plans for the individual savings account (Isa), the Government's replacement for personal equity plans (Peps) and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), attracted further controversy this week as pressure mounted on the Government to increase the £50,000 contribution limit (Caroline Merrell and Marianne Curphey write).

The Isa proposals, unveiled last week, limit annual tax-free investment to £5,000 and life-time contributions to Isas to £50,000. Under the plans, those with Peps can only transfer funds to a maximum of £50,000 into the Isa. Anything over that amount will be subject to tax from October 1999. The £50,000 limit has attracted criticism from the industry and savers. Those affected claim that they are not rich, unlike Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire Paymaster General who unveiled the plans. Some of those who now have more than £50,000 in Peps opted to put money in these schemes rather than investing in pensions — both offer similar tax breaks, but Peps are more accessible. For these people, the limit means a retrospective tax bill.

Tax experts also point out that capping at £50,000 may not save the Government tax relief in the long run. Those affected may instead choose to shelter their money within pensions such as additional voluntary contribution plans, or in personal pensions.

Many young people, like Kamal Patheja, left, a lawyer and mother of one, believe the Government is right to encourage saving for the future, but question the arbitrary choice of £50,000 as the contributions limit. "I feel the cap on the amount which can be paid into an Isa is rather unfair. In ten year's time a sum of £50,000 will be relatively modest," Mrs Patheja says.

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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

House prices near 1989 peaks

Caroline Merrell says the past year has seen real recovery

Rising interest rates may have a limited effect on demand for homes next year and price increases are unlikely to be on the same scale as the huge leaps of the past 12 months, analysts predict. People with property, particularly in London and the South East, have this year experienced rises reminiscent of the 1980s boom. The average price of a house in the UK is now only a few hundred pounds off the peak of May 1989. Then, according to the Halifax, the UK's biggest lender, the average house cost £70,246, only £287 more than the average today.

The seven-and-a-half years since the top of the market were marked by one-year falls in prices of up to 8 per cent in 1992, after annual rises in the late 1980s of up to 25 per cent. The very bottom of the housing market was reached in July 1995, when the average house was worth a little over £60,000 — 14 per cent below the 1989 peak. At one point, 1.8 million of the UK's ten million homeowners had loans that were greater than the value of their property. The Woolwich says only 300,000 now have negative equity.

Since the bottom, house-price recovery has shown many false dawns. Real recovery has only really been shown in the past year, with UK prices rising by 6.1 per cent.

London has experienced the biggest increases: according to the Land Registry, prices in some boroughs such as Westminster and Islington have risen by up to 20 per cent over the past year. House prices in the capital have been buoyed up by pent-up demand, shortages of supply and burgeoning City bonuses. Recovery in other parts of the country has been far less marked. In some areas, prices have even fallen slightly.

Will the recovery continue and be sustained? Nationwide this week slightly downgraded its house price forecast for 1998 to 7 per cent, from 12 per cent this year, while Halifax claims that house prices will rise by round 5 per cent next year, compared with 6 per cent for this year.

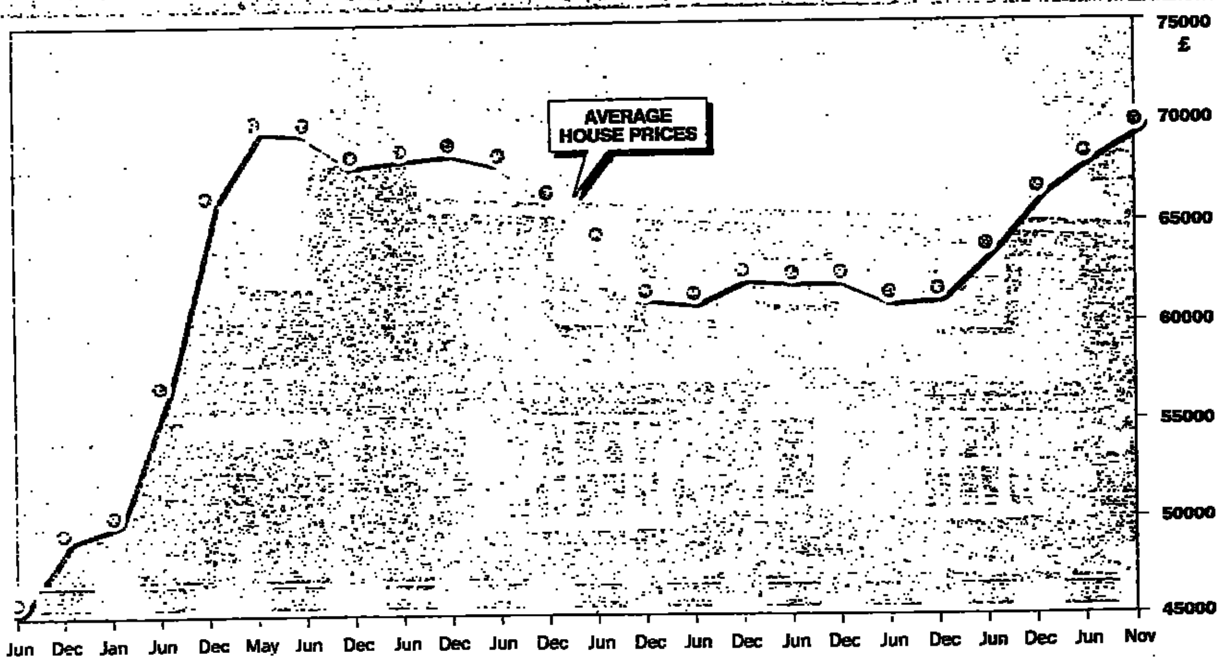
Halifax believes recent interest rate rises are beginning to have some impact on sentiment. It said: "The rise in house prices in November was slightly larger than expected, but is unlikely to be sustained in coming months. The recent rises in interest rates and slower economic growth more generally in the UK in 1998 should ensure house price inflation of around 5 per cent in 1998."

But, Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, takes the opposite view. He said: "House prices are going to go up by 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent next year. People are putting far too much emphasis on interest rate rises. The rates are not that high. There has never been a case where a housing boom has been stopped by rising interest rates. It is true that interest rates are going up. However there are a lot of low fixed rates around."

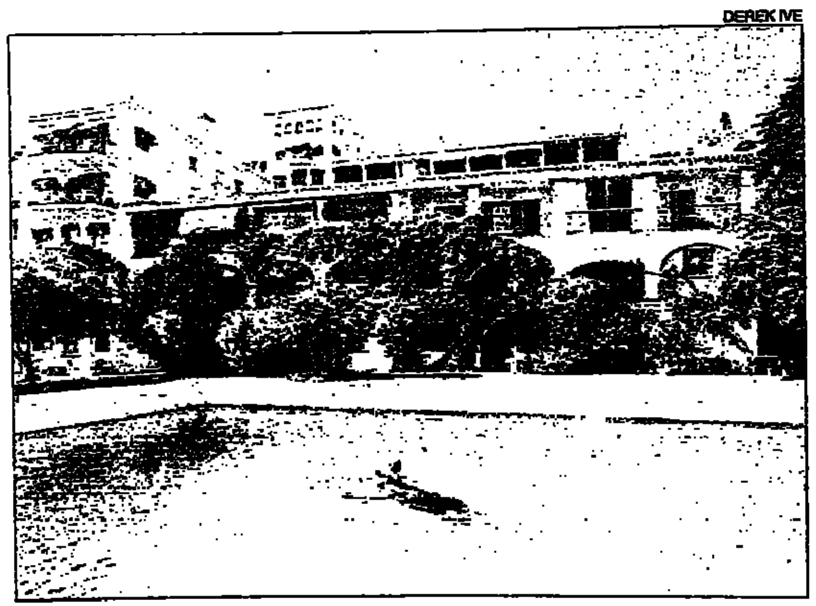
In 1989, at the height of the housing boom, interest rates were at 13.5 per cent. The monthly cost of paying off a £70,000 loan, equivalent to the average house price at that time, was around £750. In 1997 the monthly cost of a Halifax loan of £69,959, (today's average house price), would be £535.

On a yearly basis, borrowers in 1989 paid around £1,200 a year more for an average priced house than borrowers do now. Wages have risen by 50 per cent since 1989.

Mr Bell said that wage growth would determine house price rises next year. He said: "Employment is going up, real wages are going up but taxes are not. It is still early days for recovery and the idea that the market is going to slow down is wrong."



Lift-off for a £25bn Sam missile



DEREK IVE

Many retired people would prefer winter holidays to a more valuable home

Two high street lenders are poised to launch shared-appreciation mortgages (Sams) in the new year in a move that could revolutionise the way we think of homeownership and savings. Sams are mainly aimed at older people who have paid all or most of their mortgage but find themselves short of cash. By taking out a Sam, homeowners can convert capital locked in bricks and mortar into ready money in return for sharing future growth in the value of their home with the lender.

Only the Bank of Scotland currently offers Sams. It has two schemes. Homeowners can remortgage on to a fixed 5.99 per cent interest rate and borrow up to the entire value of their home. Here, the level of future appreciation shared is equal to the size of the loan. In other words, a homeowner borrowing 65 per cent of the value of their home (LTV) would give away 65 per cent of its future growth to the Bank of Scotland. More popular has been the zero per cent Sam, which enables homeowners to take an interest-free loan up to a third of the value of their home. However, the level of shared appreciation is three times LTV. Borrowing 20 per cent of the value of your property entails giving up 60 per cent of future growth in its value.

In spite of this, Sam mortgages are a huge improvement on the notorious home income plans of the 1980s which took a share of homeowners' existing equity and forced people into debt and repossession when property prices fell. If house prices fall it is the lender which misses out with Sams, not the homeowner. Homeowners simply have to make sure they can repay the new loan. Sam mortgages are also more flexible than today's improved home income plans which are only available to the over-70s and which generate money which has to be invested in annuities.

In contrast, money raised in a Sam can be spent, or invested, in anything. This could prove dramatic. Homeowners directly own £900 billion of property in the UK. Even if only a fraction of this is unleashed — SBC Warburg, the investment bank behind all the Sam deals, forecasts £25 billion over the next five years — it will light a fire. Invested, it would send stock markets into orbit; if spent on the high street, it would do the same for inflation.

For now, the drawbacks of Sams are more prosaic. A Sam mortgage is not portable if you move to a new home. Also, if your home's value goes up a lot, buying out a Sam mortgage could prove expensive. However, competition should improve matters.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

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